DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Trump hints at Phase 2, 3 sanctions on India

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FDI up 15% to $18.62 bn in Q1FY26

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भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
सत्यमेव जयते

Historic Diwali Gift for the Nation

NEXT-GEN GST REFORM

for Ease of Living & to build *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*

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Save Big on Daily Essentials

Items	From	To
Hair Oil, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toilet Soap Bar, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Cream	18%	5%
Butter, Ghee, Cheese & Dairy Spreads	12%	5%
Pre-packaged Namkeens, Bhujia & Mixtures	12%	5%
Utensils	12%	5%
Feeding Bottles, Napkins for Babies & Clinical Diapers	12%	5%
Sewing Machines & Parts	12%	5%

Uplifting Farmers & Agriculture

Items	From	To
Tractor Tyres & Parts	18%	5%
Tractors	12%	5%
Specified Bio-Pesticides, Micro-Nutrients	12%	5%
Drip Irrigation System & Sprinklers	12%	5%
Agricultural, Horticultural or Forestry Machines for Soil Preparation, Cultivation, Harvesting & Threshing	12%	5%

Relief in Healthcare Sector

Items	From	To
Individual Health & Life Insurance	18%	Nil
Thermometer	18%	5%
Medical Grade Oxygen	12%	5%
All Diagnostic Kits & Reagents	12%	5%
Glucometer & Test Strips	12%	5%
Corrective Spectacles	12%	5%

Automobiles made affordable

Items	From	To
Petrol & Petrol Hybrid, LPG, CNG Cars (not exceeding - 1200 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
Diesel & Diesel Hybrid Cars (not exceeding - 1500 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
3 Wheeled Vehicles	28%	18%
Motor Cycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
Motor Vehicles for transport of goods	28%	18%

Affordable Education

Items	From	To
Maps, Charts & Globes	12%	Nil
Pencils, Sharpeners, Crayons & Pastels	12%	Nil
Exercise Books & Notebooks	12%	Nil
Eraser	5%	Nil

Save on Electronic Appliances

Items	From	To
Air Conditioners	28%	18%
Television (above 32") (including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%
Monitors & Projectors	28%	18%
Dish Washing Machines	28%	18%

PROCESS REFORMS

Registration

Automatic registration within 3 working days for applicants:
- Identified by the system based on data analysis
- Who determines that he would not pass Input Tax Credit exceeding ₹2.5 Lakh per month and opts for the Scheme

Refund

Sanction of Provisional Refunds by proper officer, through system based risk evaluation for:
- Zero Rated Supplies
- Supplies with Inverted Duty Structure

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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

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Can't be treated as municipalities: Oppn-ruled states on Guv's powers

Urge SC not to fall 'into the trap' of letting guv impede Constitution's functioning

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Opposition-ruled states of Karnataka, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday contended before the Supreme Court that the Union government wanted to "abrogate the fulcrum" of the Constitution by raising questions over the April 8, 2025, judgment of the apex court fixing timelines for governors and the President to clear Bills passed by state legislatures.

The states also urged a five-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai not to fall "into the trap" of letting the governor become an impediment to the functioning of the Constitution.

They further submitted that states cannot be treated as "municipalities".

Appearing for Karnataka, senior advocate Gopal Subramanium said the submissions of the Union government in the Presidential reference case were meant indirectly to abrogate the fulcrum of Constitution, i.e., Cabinet-form of government and its responsibility to the legislature.

He said the Centre's contention that the President and governors have discretion over Bills is fundamentally flawed and that the Cabinet is collectively responsible to the legislature in a Cabinet form of government. He emphasised that the governor is outside the Cabinet.

He maintained that the democratic form of government through the Cabinet has been held to be part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for West Bengal, said that if a timeline is given for governors and the President, in connection with the Bills passed by the Assemblies, it would not require amending the Constitution; rather it would ensure that Article 200 (the power of governor to give assent to or withhold assent to or return to legislature a Bill) functions.

He said the court should not fall into a trap where the governor becomes an impediment to the functioning of the Constitution.

The matter related to the Presidential reference, which raised constitutional questions on whether the court can impose timelines for governors and the President to deal with Bills passed by Assemblies.

Sibal said the sovereignty of the state legislature is as important as the sovereignty of Parliament and the governor should not be allowed to delay the Bills passed by the legislature.

"You cannot create a discord, otherwise it will break down. The Constitution has to be interpreted in such a way that it is workable," he said.

On Tuesday, the court had observed that the Constitution would have to be amended to incorporate all the timelines.

Sibal contended there are judicially manageable standards which are integrated to Article 200, that is, immediacy, forthwith, as soon as possible, without delay.

He also said when a Bill is passed by the legislature, there is a presumption of constitutionality, which has to be tested in the court.

The bench observed that governors will have to apply their mind to see whether a Bill is repugnant or not, and they can't simply be a postman or a super legislative body.

Advocate Anand Sharma, representing the Himachal Pradesh government, submitted that the legislature is supreme and neither the President nor the governor has any role in law-making.

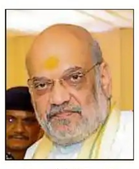
He said that governors are not viceroys or governors-general, and they are bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, and the office of the governor cannot be used to nullify the will of the people.

The hearing in the matter will continue on Thursday.

India will be Naxal-free by March 2026: Amit Shah

CHENNAI, DHNS: The Modi government will not rest until the Naxals "either surrender, are caught or eliminated", Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday, as he emphasised that the Left-Wing Extremists have caused "great damage" to some of the least developed areas of the country.

"Due to anti-Naxal operations, there has been a new sunrise in the lives of 6.5 crore people in the area from Pashupatinath to Tirupati," he said, adding that the government is committed to making the country free from Naxalism by March 31 next year.


Amit Shah

He was speaking after felicitating the CRPF, Chhattisgarh Police, DRG and Cobra jawans who successfully carried out 'Operation Black Forest' on Karreguttalu hill. He said the bravery and valour of the personnel who participated in the 19-day operation, during which 30 Naxals were killed, will be remembered as a "golden chapter" in the history of anti-Naxal operations.

"Despite heat, altitude and the danger of IEDs at every step, the security forces made the operation successful with high spirits and destroyed the base camp of the Naxalites," he said.

"We will not rest until all the Naxalites either surrender, are caught or eliminated. We will make India Naxal-free," he said, adding that the Modi government and the state government are committed to making the lives of soldiers who were martyred in anti-Naxal operations, and their families, easier.

Who will pay for damage from Maratha quota stir? asks HC

MUMBAI, DHNS: Hardening its stance on what happened in South Mumbai during the Maratha reservation agitation led by Manoj Jarange-Patil, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday wanted to know who would pay for the resulting damage to public properties.

The matter came up for hearing before a division bench comprising Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, the acting Chief Justice, and Justice Aarti Sathe, who on Tuesday issued strict instructions for the Azad Maidan to be vacated.

The court's observations came after Jarange-Patil, through his legal team, submitted to the court that the Maratha reservation agitation in Mumbai had been called off after talks with the Maharashtra government.

Senior counsel Satish Maneshinde and Advocate V M Thorat appeared for Jarange-Patil and the organisations that led the agitation, which lasted five days.

"There are some issues. Large-scale damage was caused to public property. Who will pay for that?" the bench asked the protestors' lawyers.

The lawyers asserted that no such damage was caused except for inconvenience to the common man. The bench said Jarange-Patil and the organisations must file affidavits within four weeks clarifying their stand.

Kavitha quits BRS day after suspension

2 states, 2 women & fluctuating fortunes

Accuses cousins of conspiring to seize party control by splitting family

HYDERABAD, DHNS

A day after her suspension, K Kavitha resigned from the primary membership of BRS and as MLC on Wednesday.

In a dramatic turn of events, she alleged that conspirators within the party had orchestrated a systematic smear campaign against her.

Addressing the media, Kavitha accused her cousins — former Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao and former Rajya Sabha member Joginapally Santosh Rao — of conspiring to seize control of the BRS by splitting the family.

She warned her brother, BRS working president KT Rama Rao, that the same forces would eventually target and remove him from the party as well.

"They don't want us to stay together. They believe they can gain power only if our family breaks apart," Kavitha said.

"I joined the Telangana movement and the party when I was 27, leaving behind a one-and-a-half-year-old toddler at home. I gave my everything in support of the party and the people. In fact, Ram anna (KTR) and I had joined our father to support him. But today I'm deeply hurt," she said.

She asked how discussing BC reservations, a core BRS ideology, constituted anti-party activity. "KCR is my ideal and identity. My father should understand what's going on around him," Kavitha said.

Kavitha claimed that Harish Rao had personally funded 20 to 25 MLA candidates in the 2018 assembly elections to maintain control over them in case of a fractured mandate.

She questioned the source of such substantial funding, pointedly asking where Harish Rao obtained the money, if not from the Kaleshwaram project.

Kavitha also held both Harish Rao and Santosh Rao responsible for significant electoral defeats, including her own loss in the 2019 Nizamabad Lok Sabha elections, KCR's defeat in Kamareddy during the 2023 assembly polls, and the party's ultimate loss of power.

Kavitha also claimed that Harish and Santosh's factions had colluded with both the BJP and Congress. Kavitha questioned why Chief Minister Revanth Reddy speaks about a Rs 1 lakh crore scam but remains silent about Harish Rao's role while exclusively targeting KCR. "If there's a CBI investigation against KCR, the reason for that is Harish Rao and Santosh Rao," she alleged.

Kavitha revealed that she would consult with Telangana Jagruti members, her followers, and well-wishers before deciding her next political move.

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

When Kalvakuntla Kavitha launched her first public attack against adversaries within the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in May, describing her father K Chandrashekar Rao as "a god surrounded by demons", social media immediately drew parallels to YS Sharmila's rebellion against her brother, former Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

While Sharmila's efforts couldn't deliver major gains for Congress in the 2024 Andhra polls, she potentially damaged Jagan's electoral prospects, reducing the once-invincible leader to just 11 Assembly seats.

Now, as Telangana's ruling Congress appears increasingly vulnerable due to unfulfilled poll promises, revival hopes are stirring within the BRS after more than 18 months out of power. However, the Opposition party faces its own internal crisis, a deepening family feud that culminated on Wednesday with Kavitha's dramatic exit from the BRS.

K Kavitha

YS Sharmila

The parallels between these two women leaders from Telugu states are striking. Sharmila's political journey saw her launch an unsuccessful party experiment in Telangana before folding operations and joining the Congress, ultimately positioning herself in direct confrontation with her brother in Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, Kavitha, a crucial member of what many consider Telangana's first family, has now severed ties with the BRS, leaving her political future uncertain.

Common narrative

Both women share a common narrative: attempting to cement their positions in their state's political landscape by charting independent courses after feeling sidelined by their families. Sharmila openly accused Jagan of neglecting her contributions after she had worked tirelessly for the YSRCP during his imprisonment in quid pro quo cases filed by the CBI, helping the party achieve power in 2019.

Similarly, Kavitha has publicly accused her cousins — former irrigation minister T Harish Rao and former Rajya Sabha member Joginapally Santosh Rao — of orchestrating her removal from the BRS.

Kavitha's political journey began around 2004-2005 when she returned from the United States to join the Telangana statehood movement and her father's newly formed TRS. However, after the party assumed power in 2014, the internal power structure crystallised around KTR and Harish Rao, who emerged as the de facto number two figures in both government and party hierarchy during their nearly decade-long tenure.

KTR has been widely regarded as the heir apparent to patriarch KCR, while Harish Rao, a six-time MLA and KCR's nephew, has maintained his position as a powerful party leader since the TRS' inception.

In this evolving power structure, Kavitha struggled to establish her foothold within the party, ultimately choosing to chart her own course by walking away from the BRS. Her resignation represents a major fracture within the influential political family.

The crucial question remains as to what path Kavitha will choose next. She could launch her own political outfit and fight alongside the BRS, or join another party and position the BRS as her opponent.

Keep me out of BRS family feud, says Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy lambasted the BRS leadership for dragging his name in the family battle.

Reacting sharply to Kavitha's comments, the chief minister said the BRS leadership during its regime foisted cases against Congress leaders and put them in jails in a bid to prevent them from being elected as MLAs.

"Today, the BRS leaders are fighting each other and backstabbing for political power. They were clashing with each other in the distribution of their share of amassed wealth through illegal means," he said.

A Revanth Reddy

The BRS leaders committed big sins, and they are facing the consequences, he added.

"The BRS leaders are stabbing each other with knives and saying that Revanth Reddy is behind Harish Rao and Santosh. Some BRS leaders said Revanth Reddy is supporting Kavitha. It is my appeal to stop mentioning my name in the BRS internal family crisis," the chief minister said.

Revanth Reddy said that as the son of the Palamuru soil, he will develop the region. The CM declared that Mahabubnagar district will be developed as a hub of new industries and provide employment.

Right-wing outfit's event to counter Ayyappa Sangamam

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PTI: Sabarimala Karma Samithi, a right-wing umbrella outfit, on Wednesday announced that it would hold an event in Pandalam in the Pathanamthitta district to counter the Global Ayyappa Sangamam, which is being organised by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB).

The Samithi is an umbrella organisation of various Hindu groups that spearheaded the agitation against the entry of women of menstruating age into the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa Temple seven years ago.

According to a poster shared on the Facebook page of Hindu Aikyavedi, a Sangh outfit, the Samithi stated it would organise the event as a reply to the state government.

It said thousands of devotees would take part in the event, titled "Sabarimala Samrakshana Sangamam", which is to be held in Pandalam on September 22.

The right-wing event will be held two days after the Global Ayyappa Sangamam, organised by the Travancore Devaswom Board as part of its 75th anniversary on 20 September at Pamba. The TDB event is backed by the Left government in Kerala.

Haryana gangster repatriated from Cambodia, held

NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM, PTI: Mainpal Dhilla, a notorious criminal wanted by the Haryana Police, was arrested after he was extradited from Cambodia in an operation coordinated by the CBI in collaboration with the state police and the Union ministries of home and external affairs, officials said on Wednesday.

Mainpal Dhilla has 22 cases registered against him. He was serving a life term in a Hisar jail.

He was released on parole on July 17, 2018, and fled the country on August 29, 2018.

On a request from the state police, the CBI got a Red Notice issued against Dhilla through the Interpol and contacted the NCB-Bangkok, which revealed that he had travelled from Thailand to Cambodia.

A team of the Haryana Special Task Force was sent to Cambodia, which brought Dhilla back on Tuesday.

Floods and landslides wreak havoc as north reels under relentless rain

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Several parts of northern India continued to receive heavy rainfall on Wednesday, with floods and landslides reported across Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab.

In Delhi, the Yamuna river breached the danger mark, prompting the evacuation of over 10,000 people from low-lying areas along its banks. The Chenab and Tawi rivers in Jammu and Kashmir also rose above the danger level at multiple locations.

The governments of Punjab, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh have declared school holidays until September 7 as a precautionary measure.

The National Capital Region (NCR) has remained drenched for days, as unusually heavy showers continue to disrupt daily life. In Gurugram, waterlogging brought traffic to a standstill, with several roads and underpasses inundated.

A house in Shimla lies damaged after trees were uprooted by heavy rainfall on Wednesday. PTI

Delhi and its surrounding areas are still receiving rainfall, and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast more showers on Thursday.

The IMD has issued red alerts across northern and eastern India, including Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, northern Punjab, northern Haryana, eastern Rajasthan, southwest Uttar Pradesh, northwest and eastern Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha.

Punjab is facing its worst floods since 1988, with the swollen Sutlej, Beas and Ravi rivers inundating vast areas. Over 12 districts have been severely affected.

At least seven people were killed in a landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district, while two others are feared dead in house collapses in Kullu.

Swollen rivers have triggered landslides and caused extensive damage to roads in Jammu and Kashmir. The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the Valley's main lifeline, remained shut due to landslides and shooting stones.

The rising water levels have created alarm in both divisions of the Union Territory. In Srinagar and other parts of the Valley, incessant rain led to severe waterlogging.

In Anantnag and Srinagar, flood control teams were seen patrolling bunds, while sandbags were being placed at weak points.

This fresh bout of extreme weather follows a series of tragedies that have rocked Jammu and Kashmir since mid-August. Since August 13, more than 160 lives have been lost in rain-related incidents.

(*With inputs from Zulfikar Majid, Srinagar*)

BSF on high alert as floods damage border fencing in Jammu

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Days of relentless rain and swelling rivers have reportedly battered the International Border (IB) in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts, inflicting heavy damage on Border Security Force (BSF) fencing and several forward posts.

Large portions of the fencing have been washed away or remain submerged, particularly in vulnerable stretches such as Pargwal island in Akhnoor, where the Chenab river has unleashed its full fury.

While the exact extent of the destruction cannot be assessed immediately because many areas are still underwater, officials confirmed that damage has been reported at "several places" along the border. The breaches, they admitted, create temporary gaps that could be exploited by Pakistan to facilitate militant infiltration.

However, the BSF has moved quickly to adapt to the situation. Surveillance has been shifted to rear positions, electronic monitoring has been stepped up, and boats are being used for patrolling inundated patches.

A senior security official said the force is treating the situation with the utmost seriousness. "The risk is highest when floodwaters wash away stretches of fencing, creating gaps. Pakistan has a history of trying to exploit these conditions. But this year, despite extensive damage, our troops are maintaining a very high level of alertness," he said.

Officials recalled that in past years, Pakistan-based handlers had attempted to push militants into J&K after floods damaged the border fencing, particularly in riverine areas. "But so far, no such attempt has been successful this time," an official remarked.

The heightened threat perception prompted Home Minister Amit Shah to review the situation during a security meeting in Jammu on Sunday. Director General of BSF, Daljit Singh Chawdhary, briefed the Home Minister about the scale of the damage and the measures undertaken to ensure that infiltration attempts are thwarted. Shah was also apprised of the contingency plans put in place to sustain security until repairs are carried out.

Army personnel wade through flood waters from a swollen Chenab river, in Jammu district, on Wednesday. PTI

CONVERGENCE MODEL

Anganwadis and primary schools set to be in same campus

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday announced new guidelines that will allow primary schools and Anganwadi centres to function on the same campus.

The policy, a convergence of the Ministry of Women and Child Development as well as the Ministry of Education, will affect the lives of over 4.3 crore children between the ages of three and six, said Pradhan.

There are over 14 lakh Anganwadi centres as well as 9.16 lakh schools with grade 1. Till now, around 2.9 lakh Anganwadis have been co-located. Of the 36 states, the Centre sent directives to, officials said that 31 states have accepted the change.

The guidelines stated that existing Anganwadis should move to nearby primary schools with grade 1, and those operating from rented premises should prioritise the move.

Anganwadis that have more marginalised children should also proritise the move, and they should make a move to schools that do not have an existing bal-vatika or pre-primary structure.

To ensure there is not much disruption, the existing command structure in both the school and the Anganwadi centres will be left untouched, a senior education ministry official said. "We have also asked that a separate entry and exit should be given to the Anganwadi," the official said.

Explaining the scope of the programme, Pradhan added that the institutional framework of Anganwadis, which has the involvement of the WCD, health, as well as education ministries, touches upon the lives of 11 crore people.

WCD minister Annapurna Devi said that countries like Finland, Canada and Australia have benefitted from focussing on ECCE.

Sanjay Kumar, secretary of the department of school education, said the GER and the NER should ideally be the same.

"The NEP 2020 recommends that a child should be 6 years of age if they reach class 1. Whether the child comes from a pre-primary school or an anganwadi, we want them to have the same level of education," Kumar said.

HC reserves order on Rahul's plea in 'Sikh remarks' case

PRAYAGRAJ, PTI: The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday reserved its verdict over a special court's order directing a magisterial court to consider the plea for an FIR against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for a statement he made in the US.

Justice Sameer Jain, acting on Gandhi's criminal revision, kept the special court's order in abeyance.

Appearing for Gandhi, advocate Gopal Chaturvedi argued that unless the entire statement was quoted in the application, it couldn't be substantiated in which context Gandhi allegedly made those utterances.

Bengaluru Thursday, September 4, 2025 Pages 18 Vol 78 No 245 ₹7

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12%, 28% slabs to go; new rates will be effective from Sept 22

Big GST shake-up to turn common goods cheaper

GOVT UNVEILS GST BONANZA

Common and middle-class items

Hair oil, soaps, bicycles, reduced to 5% ← 12% or 18%

GST on all TV sets at 18%

No GST on health policies

- Individual life insurance, health policies to be exempt from GST
- GST on roti, paratha will be charged nil
- zero tax on life-saving drugs

Big cars, bikes costly

All cars larger than 1,200 cc for petrol and 1,500 cc for diesel will attract **40% GST**

- Motorcycles exceeding 350 cc, aircraft for personal use will attract **40% GST**
- Small cars, motorcycles up to 350 cc will be charged **18%**

- GST on all auto parts to be **18%**
- Tax on 3-wheelers down to **18%**

Special GST rate of 40% on pan masala, tobacco products, cigarettes; aerated drinks

GST on handicrafts, marble, granite blocks to be **5%**

> Every tax on the common man's daily use items has gone through a rigorous review and in most cases the rates have come down drastically.
> - **Nirmala Sitharaman,** Union Finance Minister

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A host of goods and services concerning common people, including paneer, bread, hair oil, shampoo and toothpaste, will become cheaper effective from September 22 as the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising representatives from all states and Union Territories, on Wednesday unanimously decided to rationalise the tax slabs.

The Council decided to abolish 12% and 28% tax slabs and introduce a new GST slab of 40%, which will be applicable on super luxury and sin goods.

Briefing the media after the Council meeting, the Union finance minister said the decision on rate rationalisation has been taken with full consensus.

"Every tax on the common man's daily use items has gone through a rigorous review and in most cases the rates have come down drastically. Labour-intensive industries have been given good support. Farmers and the agriculture sector as well as the health sector will benefit. Key drivers of the economy will be given prominence," Sitharaman said.

GST on daily essentials like hair oil, shampoo, toilet soap, toothbrush and shaving cream will be cut to 5% from the existing 18%. Butter, ghee, cheese and dairy spreads, which are currently taxed at 12%, will move to the 5% tax slab.

There will be no GST on individual health and life insurance premiums. At present, they attract 18% GST. The GST on thermometer will be cut to 5% from the existing 18%.

The new rates will come into effect from September 22, the first day of Navaratri.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the tax cuts and GST reforms will benefit the common people, farmers, MSMEs, middle-class, women and youth.

"The wide ranging reforms will improve the lives of our citizens and ensure ease of doing business for all, especially small traders and businesses," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister had announced about the GST reforms and rate cuts in his Independence Day address from the Red Fort.

GST on ultra-high temperature milk, fresh cheese and paneer will be cut to zero from 5%. "All the Indian breads will see a nil rate. So roti or paratha or whatever it is, they all come to nil," Sitharaman said.

The Council also decided to introduce a new tax slab of 40%, which will be levied on super luxury items and sin goods like pan masala, cigarettes and carbonated beverages.

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Related reports, Page 7

Services PMI rises to 15-year high

India's services sector growth rose to 15-year high in August driven by a broad-based expansion in international sales that bolstered overall demand, as per an industry survey report released by S&P Global on Wednesday. India's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for services jumped to 62.9 in August from 60.5 recorded in the previous month.
Details on Page 12

'Can't be treated as municipalities,' Oppn-ruled states tell SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition-ruled states of Karnataka, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday contended before the Supreme Court that the Union government wanted to "abrogate the fulcrum" of the Constitution by raising questions over the April 8, 2025, judgment of the apex court prescribing timelines for governors and the President to clear Bills passed by state legislatures.

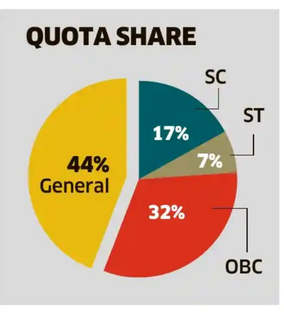
The states also urged a five-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai not to fall "into the trap" of letting the governor become an impediment to the functioning of the Constitution.

They further submitted that states cannot be treated as "municipalities".
Facing Page

General category job, education quota down to 44%

Reservation now 56% in state's new roster; exceeds SC cap

BENGALURU, DHNS



The state government issued an order Wednesday prescribing a new reservation roster according to which people falling under the general merit category will have a 44% share in jobs and education, down from the earlier 50%.

Reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC) is 17%, Scheduled Tribes (ST) 7% and Other Backward Classes (OBC) 32%, taking the total quota quantum to 56%. This breaches the 50% cap on reservation the Supreme Court had fixed in the 1992 Indira Sawhney case.

Its its order Wednesday, the government said all recruitment must happen under a new roster that takes into account internal reservation among SCs.

The 17% reservation for SCs is divided into three: Group A (SC Left/Madigas) with 6%, Group B (SC Right/Holeya) also 6% and Group C (Banjara, Bhovi, Korma, Korcha and 'most backward' communities) at 5%.

Earlier, Karnataka had 50% reservation - 15% for SCs, 3% STs and 32% OBCs - while the remaining 50% went to the general category.

In 2022-23, the previous BJP government hiked SC/ST quota, breaching the 50% limit. However, the issue of internal reservation was not settled then.

Now, with the Congress government approving internal reservation among SCs, all direct recruitments must adhere to the new quota roster, the order issued by the department of personnel & administrative reforms (DPAR) said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's plan is to increase the state's total reservation to 75%, a key promise he had made before coming to power.

The junked 2015 Social & Educational Survey report recommended hiking OBC reservation to 51%. That, along with 17% for SCs and 7% for STs, would make it 75% reservation.

In April this year, Siddaramaiah argued that the 50% reservation cap laid down by the Supreme Court was no longer intact after the introduction of the 10% quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). "Tamil Nadu has 69% reservation. It is 77% in Jharkhand," he had said.

SIT: Those quizzed in Soujanya case summoned only for current probe

MANJUSHREE G NAIK
UDUPI, DHNS

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala, summoned Uday Jain, who was interrogated in the Soujanya rape and murder case, for questioning on Wednesday.

According to SIT sources, Dheeraj Kella and Mallik Jain, who were also interrogated in the Soujanya case, were issued notices to appear before the SIT. Sources from the SIT revealed that the notices were issued based on the suspects' knowledge and involvement in the ongoing case.

SIT sources were categorical that the ongoing investigation had no connection with the Soujanya murder case. "There is no confusion regarding our mandate. SIT is not handling the Soujanya case and does not intend to involve itself in it," the sources told *DH* when contacted.

Sources from SIT had declared in the past that the Soujanya case has already been legally closed. "If the family wishes to have the case reopened, they will need to approach the court through proper legal process," informed sources in SIT.

Asked about sections invoked against the complainant witness, sources said the original FIR was registered under section 229 of BNS.

"However, as the investigation progressed, eight more sections including 227 (giving false evidence), 228 (fabricating false evidence), 230 (fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of capital offence), 231 (fabricating evidence with intent to procure conviction of life imprisonment), 236 (false declaration), 240 (giving false information), 248 (false charge), and 336 (forgery) of BNS were added," SIT sources said.

5 Bengaluru corporations get Rs 300 crore to run ops

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has released Rs 300 crore to the five newly carved out corporations coming under the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) for administrative expenses, including payment of salaries.

D K Shivakumar

The government has also approved the proposal hire 500 engineers who will be responsible for works in the wards whose boundaries are expected to be finalised in three months.

Deputy CM D K Shivakumar told reporters after unveiling the nameboard at the GBA head office that the ground breaking ceremony for the new offices of the five corporations will be held on November 1. "I have instructed officials to fix boundaries of all corporations by installing signages so that there is no confusion," he said.

"A proposal has been sent to the government to form 500 wards under GBA. This will bring administration closer to people. Bengaluru's population has crossed 1.4 crore. There is also a floating population. With this in mind, we will form small wards," he said.

New areas, including panchayats, will be added to GBA in phases, Shivakumar said.

He urged citizens, including architects, to suggest designs for the five corporation offices. "The best three or five will be selected. A prize of Rs 5 lakh will be given," he said.

DELHI DELUGE

People use a boat to move through a flooded area as the water level of the Yamuna continued to rise in New Delhi on Wednesday. More than 7,500 people have been evacuated from low-lying areas. PTI

ART ATTACK

100-year-old paintings by Venkatappa infested with fungus

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

If you walk into the recently renovated and reopened Venkatappa Art Gallery here, you will find some of the display spots empty on the first-floor gallery dedicated to the eponymous artist. Thanks to a fungal problem in the gallery, a few 100-year-old paintings of legendary painter, sculptor and veena player K Venkatappa have been removed from display.

The first-floor of the gallery houses 436 objects related to Venkatappa, including 58 artworks, 15 certificates and musical notes, nine photographs, 122 books, six veenas, and various personal belongings like tools and medals.

Fungal growth seen on a painting at the Venkatappa Art Gallery in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Of the 58 artworks, eight watercolour paintings have been sent to the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (Intach) for conservation. Full Moon, Ooty (1926) and Monsoon Rain, Ooty (1926) are among the paintings removed from display for restoration. Apart from these eight artworks, a few more paintings at the gallery have encountered liquid damage.

A gallery official said that while the works of Venkatappa were yet to be evaluated by the state government, each watercolour work is estimated to value between Rs 50-57 lakh.

"We noticed that the paintings had developed a slight fungus and immediately contacted the Intach for cleaning and restoration," said A Devaraju, Commissioner for Archaeology, Museums and Heritage.

He attributed the fungal problem to the humid environment of the gallery. "The Venkatappa Art Gallery has always had a humid environment. The building is in a low-lying area, surrounded by greenery and a waterbody. Plus, there is a minor issue of waterlogging at Cubbon Park. The old gallery building was not air-conditioned. Now that the renovated building is fully air-conditioned, there are some issues with ventilation and humidity," he added.

In an attempt to prevent further damage to artworks, the air-conditioning at both the galleries on the first and second floors, housing works of K Venkatappa and K K Hebbar, respectively, has been switched off.

▸ Paintings, Page 5

Quickly

China unveils new weapons at parade

China on Wednesday for the first time displayed a range of new weapons at a massive military parade, which included laser weapons, nuclear ballistic missiles, giant underwater drones, besides fifth-generation aircraft, flaunting its military might.
Details on Page 9

Foreigners jumping bail: SC seeks policy

The Supreme Court has emphasised the need for a policy to ensure foreign nationals committing crimes in the country don't "flee from justice" as it expressed displeasure after being apprised that a foreign national accused in a cheating case jumped bail.
Details on Page 7

Anganwadis, primary schools to be co-located

In a move that could have wide ramifications in primary school education in the government sector, the Union government on Wednesday announced that all anganwadi centres will be gradually co-located with primary schools.
Facing Page

Kavitha resigns from BRS, MLC post

A day after her suspension from the BRS, former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao's daughter K Kavitha resigned from the party and her MLC post on Wednesday.
Facing Page

BJP MLA booked for 'insulting' woman SP

The Davangere police have registered a FIR against Harihar MLA B P Harish of the BJP over his alleged insulting remark against Superintendent of Police (SP) Uma Prashanth, on Wednesday. The Harihar legislator had likened the police officer to a dog while addressing a press conference, on Tuesday.
Details on Page 5

BJP announces protest against Deshpande

The BJP has announced protests across Uttara Kannada district on Thursday against senior Congress leader R V Deshpande for his alleged "misogynistic" remarks to a woman journalist.
Details on Page 5

Milad: State bars foreign Islamic scholars

Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Wednesday said the police have directed organisers of the upcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi event not to invite or involve any foreign nationals, citing potential violations of visa regulations.
Details on Page 3

Toddler dies after short circuit triggers fire

A toddler died after a suspected short circuit triggered a fire in a room at the basement of an apartment in central Bengaluru on Wednesday.
Details on Page 2

Open to renaming GBA, says DyCM

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar unveils the new nameplate of Greater Bangalore Authority at the headquarters in NR Square. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Comes in the wake of criticism that Kannada was ignored in the title

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said the government is open to renaming the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) after criticism that Kannada was ignored in the title.

He said the objection was mainly over the word 'Greater', which many felt could have been avoided. Shivakumar urged citizens to suggest alternatives.

"There is no question of ignoring the mother tongue. Kannada is the administrative language of the state. If we find a better word for GBA, I am ready to change it. The same situation has happened in other places, including Mumbai," he said.

On September 2, after the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike ceased to exist, workers replaced the BBMP board with that of GBA late in the night. Soon after, netizens argued that the new name should have been entirely in Kannada.

Others contended that 'Greater' reflects Bengaluru's global stature, noting that cities such as Chennai and Hyderabad also use it.

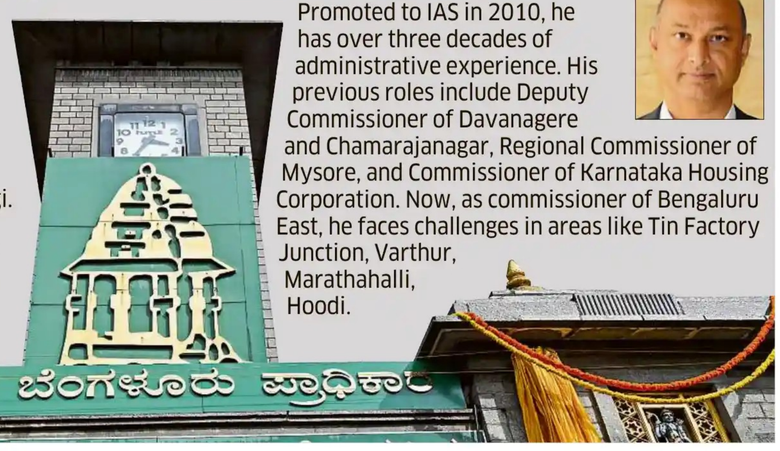
Know your commissioners

Rajendra Cholan P (Bengaluru Central)
A 2008-batch IAS officer, he earlier led Bengaluru Smart City Ltd, revamping roads in Central Bengaluru and launching an integrated command and control room to address citizen grievances. He will continue as secretary to DyCM DK Shivakumar. His new jurisdiction covers areas ranging from the congested Gandhinagar neighbourhoods to the upscale MG Road.

Ramesh KN (Bengaluru South)
A 2012-batch IAS officer, he served as zonal commissioner of Mahadevapura for 18 months, earning a reputation for being responsive and accessible. His experience spans education, tourism, and elections. Bengaluru South, which he now manages, is a vibrant mix of homes and employment hubs.

Dr Rajendra KV (Bengaluru West)
A 2013-batch IAS officer, he has worked in rural development, tourism, and district administration. He earlier served as Deputy Commissioner of Mysore and Mangalore. Familiar with Bengaluru's Basaveshwaranagar, where his family resides, he now handles the populous Bengaluru West, home to 45 lakh residents, but limited revenue.

P Sunil Kumar (Bengaluru North)
An electrical engineer who secured the 18th rank in the UPSC, he earlier worked for Tata Consultancy Services before joining the IAS. His career has included postings as Deputy Commissioner in Koppal, Vijayapura, and Bagalkot, and as Commissioner in Kalaburagi. He now oversees Bengaluru North, which spans dense localities like Pulakeshinagar.



Ramesh DS (Bengaluru East)
Promoted to IAS in 2010, he has over three decades of administrative experience. His previous roles include Deputy Commissioner of Davanagere and Chamarajanagar, Regional Commissioner of Mysore, and Commissioner of Karnataka Housing Corporation. Now, as commissioner of Bengaluru East, he faces challenges in areas like Tin Factory Junction, Varthur, Marathahalli, Hoodi.

Five IAS officers take charge of B'luru's new corporations

BENGALURU, DHNS: Five IAS officers took charge on Wednesday as commissioners of the newly carved municipal corporations in the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA), formally setting in motion the new governance structure.

The new commissioners are expected to face several challenges, including streamlining administration from scratch, optimising revenue sources, and distributing responsibilities, all while the city struggles with monsoon woes such as flooding, potholes, dysfunctional streetlights, and tree pruning.

While the corporations will control property tax and other revenue sources, their budgets will largely cover routine maintenance work and employee salaries. A major share of funds — coming as state government grants — will remain with the Greater Bengaluru Authority for large infrastructure projects.

Preliminary estimates suggest that the Bengaluru East City Corporation will generate about Rs 912 crore, the highest among the new bodies, aided by multinational companies along the Outer Ring Road.

South Bengaluru is projected at Rs 733 crore, followed by Central at Rs 659 crore. The other corporations are expected to generate around Rs 550 crore each.

Home alone toddler dies after suspected short circuit triggers fire

Child left behind in basement room by working parents

BENGALURU, DHNS

A toddler died after a suspected short circuit triggered a fire in the basement room of an apartment in central Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The victim, a one-and-a-half-year-old girl, was the daughter of Pushkar Kumar, 25, and Jyothi Kumari, 22, from Nepal. Kumar worked as a security guard, while Jyothi was employed as a house help.

The police said the couple left for work in the morning, leaving their child asleep in their basement room near Cunningham Road. They returned around 6 pm to find smoke seeping from the door hinges. When the door was forced open, the girl was found dead inside.

The Fire and Emergency Services, assisted by jurisdictional High Grounds police, doused the blaze. Police suspect a short-circuit triggered the fire, which spread on to the blanket that was covering the child.

The body was shifted for autopsy.

An unnatural death report has been registered, and further investigation is underway, the police said.

Doddaballapur firecracker mishap: Teen dies after four-day fight for life

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 15-year-old boy died on Tuesday night after battling for his life for four days following a firecracker accident during a Ganesha idol immersion procession near Doddaballapura Town.

The death toll has now risen to two.

The deceased, Yogesh, was among six persons injured. Another boy, Muni alias Dhanush (15), died on the day of the accident.

"Yogesh died at Victoria Hospital on Tuesday night," a police official told *DH*. "He was transferred there after initially being treated at Ramaiah Hospital."

On August 29, a multi-shot cracker box kept on a forklift carrying the Ganesha idol was lit suspectedly by a heated silencer, striking people in the crowd. Yogesh and Muni bore the brunt of the blast.

The Doddaballapura Town police arrested Chandrakumar, Maruthi, Kishore and Manjunath, organisers of the procession, and booked them under sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 125A (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

On August 30, Bengaluru Rural Deputy Commissioner AB Basavaraj issued an order banning firecrackers during Ganesha processions and other political and religious events with large gatherings.

The order followed a proposal by Bengaluru Rural SP CK Baba.

Two-wheeler rider trapped between bus and mini truck; dies

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 43-year-old two-wheeler rider died on Wednesday in an accident near Thimmanahalli bridge in Doddabasti, a residential neighbourhood in the KR Puram traffic police station limits.

The deceased, Manikantan, tried to enter the main road while overtaking a BMTC bus halted at a stop. At the same time, a speeding Tata Ace hit the two-wheeler, trapping the rider and pillion between the two vehicles.

The pillion rider suffered leg injuries and was shifted to a nearby private hospital.

The rear of the bus and the front of the Tata Ace were damaged.

Damage on social media

In a statement, the BMTC urged the public not to brand it as "Killer BMTC".

"There is a false image that is being spread about the BMTC across the media. We have taken into account every accident where the BMTC was involved in recent times, and it proves how the image is a false one.

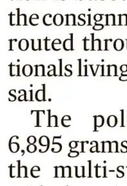
"In August, there were five fatal accidents involving the BMTC, in which BMTC drivers were not at fault in four of them," GT Prabhakar Reddy, Chief Traffic Manager (Operations), told *DH*.

Objectionable content against its leaders: BJP lodges plaint

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP on Wednesday lodged a complaint at the Upparpet police station against objectionable content targeting its leaders.

A delegation of party leaders met the police inspector and submitted the complaint.

Speaking to the media, Dr CN Ashwath Narayan said the police had not acted against those who had posted the content and portrayed BJP leaders in a poor light.



Ashwath Narayan

"We have lodged a complaint with the police and have demanded immediate action against the culprits. We have also urged the police to see that the post is withdrawn immediately," the former Deputy Chief Minister said.

FIR filed against Just Bake after worker dies at factory

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Chikkajala police on Tuesday registered an FIR against Just Bake after a 19-year-old employee died in an accident at its factory in north Bengaluru.

The case was filed against the owner of Just Bake Bindu Recipes Pvt Ltd, hydraulic lift operator Lakshmi BK, factory in-charge Rajeshekar and others under BNS Section 106 (causing death by negligence).

The complaint was lodged by Mukhesh Kumar Choudhary, a relative of the deceased, Bhopendra Choudhary. Bhopendra had joined Mukhesh, 29, at the factory two months ago as a helper. Mukhesh has worked there for nine years as a cake maker.

Around 12.35 am on September 2, Bhopendra was carrying biscuits on the hydraulic lift from the ground to the second floor.

The FIR stated that he bent down and hit his head against the wall on the second floor, dying instantly.

International drug syndicate busted in B'luru; 6 arrested

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi police busted an international drug syndicate in Bengaluru, allegedly run by individuals hailing from Kerala.

Six people, including two Nigerian nationals and a woman, were arrested and nearly seven kilograms of methamphetamine (meth) worth Rs 21 crore was recovered, an official said on Wednesday.

"The syndicate had a strong supply chain linking Delhi, Bengaluru and Kerala, with the Nigerians playing the role of suppliers and the Bengaluru-based suspects financing and distributing the drugs. The syndicate allegedly targeted students, IT professionals and other youth across South India,"

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Harsh Indora said.

The kingpin of the operation is based in Nigeria, and the consignments were being routed through African nationals living in India, Indora said.

The police recovered 6,895 grams of drugs during the multi-state operation, with the seized drugs valued at over Rs 21 crore in the international market. Further investigation into the matter is underway, the police said.

CI-NERGY alliance to promote clean energy in C&I sector

BENGALURU, DHNS: WRI India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have launched the 'CI-NERGY Alliance-Steering Energy Transitions' to accelerate clean energy adoption in India's commercial and industrial (C&I) sector.

Unveiled at Connect Karo 2025 in New Delhi, the initiative aims to support India's targets of achieving 50% power capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030 and net zero by 2070.

The C&I sector, one of the largest electricity consumers, has significant potential to drive decarbonisation through renewables, energy efficiency, and electrification.

Sujay Ghosh, Co-Chairman of the Renewable Energy Council at CII, said the initiative is a "timely effort to foster collaboration and drive frameworks and models on incremental revenue" that will enable a transition to low-carbon pathways.

The alliance will operate as a self-sustaining platform, creating a competitive market by aggregating demand and promoting standardised power purchase agreements.

The seized goods displayed by the police.
PHOTO: BENGALURU RURAL POLICE

Red sanders smugglers arrested in Hoskote

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Hoskote police on Wednesday arrested three men involved in an inter-state red sanders smuggling racket and seized 1,093 kg of wood worth about Rs 25 lakh.

The arrested are Ajaz Shariff and Fayaz Shariff, both 47 years, and Sadiq Khan, 34, all from Andhra Pradesh. They were caught red-handed while packing the wood at a courier office in Hoskote.

The police said the wood, sourced from a forest range in Andhra Pradesh, was meant to be transported to a northern state. Once in Karnataka, the smugglers packed it in plastic wrappers of different companies to avoid detection.

Officials said the three are habitual offenders. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

"The arrested have over 75 cases in Andhra Pradesh. The investigation is on, and a few others are to be arrested," said CK Baba, Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru Rural.

"Earlier, they used to transport it by themselves. But they have changed the modus operandi and used a courier this time," he added.

BSWML seizes over 9,000 kg of single-use plastic

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a major operation, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) on Wednesday seized over 9,000 kg of banned single-use plastic.

BSWML chief executive officer Karee Gowda said fines amounting to Rs 7.38 lakh were imposed on traders for manufacturing, storing, and selling the prohibited items.

Officials raided 158 locations, including KR Market, Avenue Road, Kalasipalyam, Yeshwantpur Market, Peenya Industrial Area, Dasarahalli and Chamarajpet.

Vocal concert on Saturday

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will organise a vocal concert by S Shankar and Ramani Shankar in duet in tribute to GV Krishna Prasad, celebrating his birth anniversary.

They will be accompanied by Bombay R Madhavan on the violin, TR Sundaresan on mridanga, and Ranganatha Chakravarthy on ghata.

The concert will be held on Saturday at 5.30 pm at Banashankari 2nd Stage, the press release said.

Ganesh Chitra Mahotsav

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Akanksha Artists' Group has organised the third edition of Vakratunda Mahakaya, a Ganesh Chitra Mahotsav.

It will feature an exhibition of art work dedicated to Lord Ganesha by 60 artists, at the Indian Institute of World Culture, BP Wadia Road, Basavanagudi. The exhibition is on till Sunday.

Trio arrested for temple thefts; cops recover 22 idols

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kadugodi police have arrested three men from West Bengal for temple thefts and burglary, recovering 22 idols and an autorickshaw worth Rs 6.5 lakh.

The accused were identified as Mohammad Rabbi, 22, Mohammad Yusuf, 20, and Mohammad Babu, 20. The police said that Rabbi and Yusuf are habitual offenders.

The probe began after a complaint by the priest of Muneshwara Swamy Temple in Khajisonnenahalli, who reported idols, temple bells, and cash from the donation box stolen on July 30. A case was registered under BNS Section 303 (theft).

Some of the items that were stolen from the Muneshwara Swamy Temple in Khajisonnenahalli. DH PHOTO

On August 27, the police intercepted a man carrying tools such as cutting pliers, an axle blade, and an iron rod. He confessed to the temple theft and named his two accomplices, who were later detained in Segehalli.

The trio admitted to thefts in Khajisonnenahalli and Hosakote, and to stealing an autorickshaw in Avalahalli.

The suspects revealed that they sold the idols to a scrap dealer and abandoned the vehicle in a vacant plot. They were remanded to judicial custody.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Award ceremony: 'FKCCI India CSR and Sustainable Conference Awards 2025'; Organised by Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI); Sir MV Auditorium, FKCCI, KG Road; 10 am.

Sandesh Yuva Vedike: 33rd annual programme; Sowmyanatha Swamiji of Adichunchanagiri Maha Sanstana Mutt, Vijayanagar, Shivarudra Swamiji of Belimutta, Dr Aruda Bharathi Swamiji of Siddaruda Mission Ashrama of Ramohalli; Guests: Dr C Somashekar, Dr Wodey P Krishna, PC Mohan; Kannada Bhavana Nayana Auditorium; 5 pm onwards.

Graduation ceremony: Organised by Abbas Khan College for Women; Rizwan Arshad and Ramalinga Reddy to participate; College premises; 11.30 am.

CULTURAL

Music performance: 'Ragas for a golden jubilee'; TM Krishna, Sukanya Ramgopal, and Delhi S Sairam to perform; Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; 7 pm.

Play: 'OBE (Prashasti Sigodu Bahala Kashta)'; Directed by Vinay Ninasam; Sanjay N Murthy, Pranav Kumar and others to perform; Kalagrama, behind Bangalore University; 7 pm.

Play: 'Chitrapata'; Shwetha Shrinivas, Savita Avarsang, Padmaprasad Jain, and others to perform; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; 7.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.2°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	89%
Sunset (Sept 4)	6:30 pm
Sunrise (Sept 5)	6:09 am
Moonrise	3:10 pm
Moonset	1:45 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving
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- Bhagya B.L.

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SIT files closure report in gang rape case against Munirathna

Cites lack of evidence; HC adjourns hearing to Sept 17

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing a gang rape case against Rajarajeshwari Nagar BJP MLA N Munirathna has filed a closure report before the court, sources said.

According to sources, the SIT submitted a 'B report' before the special court for elected representatives in Bengaluru after the allegations could not be substantiated due to lack of evidence.

The FIR had been registered by the RMC Yard police in Bengaluru on May 20 under IPC Sections 376D (gang rape), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman). The case was subsequently transferred to the SIT, which has also probed two other cases against the MLA, one of them involving rape.

In her complaint, the 40-year-old survivor alleged that Munirathna had her gang-raped by his associates, urinated on her face, and injected her with a deadly virus. She claimed she was hospitalised in January 2025, where she discovered that she had contracted the virus. Depressed over the incident, she allegedly consumed pills on May 19 and fell ill, the FIR stated.

In a video message released to the media on Wednesday, Munirathna said he was informed of the B report by his advocate.

"After Dr C N Manjunath won from Bangalore Rural in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, cases were filed against me. My lawyer told me the B report has been filed, though I do not know on what grounds. But this shows that the truth has prevailed. Making women file false complaints must stop. Nobody is permanent. Don't use women for selfish interests. God will protect me," he said.

The SIT has already filed two charge sheets and a supplementary charge sheet against Munirathna in two other cases.

In the first case, registered at Kaggalipura in Ramanagara, the SIT charged the BJP MLA under IPC Sections 376(2)(n) (rape committed repeatedly on the same woman), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and 354C (voyeurism). Earlier, the SIT had filed another chargesheet against him in a separate case involving casteist abuse. The SIT was formed in September 2024 after multiple allegations were made public by the complainants.

Meanwhile, the High Court was informed that a B report has been filed in the case registered at RMC Yard police station. The court adjourned the matter to September 17 in the petition filed by Munirathna challenging the proceedings and extended the interim protection granted to him.

Foreign scholars won't attend Eid Milad-un-Nabi event: HM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Wednesday confirmed that police had directed organisers of the upcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi event not to invite foreigners citing potential visa violations.

Hindu groups and the BJP had flagged the participation of foreign Islamic scholars in the event, triggering a huge controversy.

In a promotional advertisement for the event, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and several ministers were featured alongside four prominent foreign Islamic scholars–Shaikh Abdullah Abdul Kabeer Abdul Kareem and Sayyid Abthan Al-Sahmiri from Saudi Arabia; Sayyid Hashim Abdul Qaadir Al-Jilani from in Iraq; Sayyid Habib Umar bin Hafeez from Yemen.

BJP leader C N Ashwath Narayan and Bijapur City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal latched onto the issue, accusing the state government of allowing foreigners to visit the country for a religious function, which is a violation of Indian visa regulations.

"We have asked the organisers to ensure that no foreigner is allowed to participate, speak or even attend the religious event," said Parameshwara.

The Home Minister added that the Foreigners Regional Registration Office was monitoring the situation closely.

"Questions will be asked only if the organisers refuse to follow our directions," said Parameshwara.

The state government had to act under greater responsibility than the opposition, said Parameshwara, affirming that all measures would be taken to ensure compliance with the law.

Meanwhile, Minister for Minority Welfare B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan said that, while foreign scholars may be present in Bengaluru at the time of the event, they would not be participating in the conference, nor attend any public religious gathering.

Students and members of the Akhila Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) stage a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday, demanding the appointment of permanent lecturers and guest lecturers. DH PHOTO

Govt in a fix over appointment of guest lecturers

Academic activities hit; matter is in the High Court

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government's decision to relieve 5,500 guest lecturers for not possessing qualifications prescribed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) has severely impacted academic activities at state-run degree colleges across Karnataka.

The problem has been further compounded by the fact that the state government is not in a position to hire new guest lecturers since faculty members, who do not have UGC-prescribed qualifications, moved the court challenging their ineligibility to be recruited to these posts.

Pointing out that the matter was pending before the High Court, an official in the Department of Higher Education said, "The state government is trying to impress on the court how vital guest lecturers are to academic activities. We are dealing with a shortage of qualified candidates for at least seven to eight subjects."

The UGC's guidelines stipulate that each guest lecturer must either have a NET/SET/SLET qualification or a PhD.

An Akhila Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) activist lamented the state government's failure to ensure the appointment of guest lecturers for the current academic year.

"At least 11,000 guest faculty positions are lying vacant," the activist rued.

The ABVP student activists staged a statewide protest on Wednesday, demanding immediate recruitment of guest faculty.

Given that 3,000 permanent lecturers retired ahead of the start of the current academic year, the 432 government degree colleges currently have only a little more than 3,000 permanent lecturers to manage the workload.

Legal team appointed as litigations on BMIC project mount

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Wednesday said that the government had appointed a strong legal team to address the mounting disputes related to the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the cabinet sub-committee at Vidhana Soudha, Parameshwara said more than 300 litigations were pending, 100 of them in the High Court. "We have resolved around 80 cases at the government level," he added, highlighting the ongoing efforts to ease the deadlock.

He underlined that the government was actively trying to resolve the issues, but acknowledged the challenges.

"The project is involved in a lot of litigation. Therefore, getting a solution to this project is not easy," he said.

The cabinet sub-committee, comprising seven members and headed by Parameshwara, was formed to review the progress of the long-pending project, being executed by Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE). During its review, the committee identified several flaws in the project's implementation.

He said that while a framework agreement was signed to ensure transparent execution, it had been violated on multiple fronts. "Be it land acquisition, changes in forming townships, concession agreement or toll agreement —violations have occurred," he stated.

The minister clarified that resolving these issues cannot be achieved in a short period.

Addressing concerns regarding compensation to farmers, he said, "The framework agreement does not include a commitment that sites would be given to farmers in lieu of compensation. This was done outside the framework agreement". However, he added that NICE had agreed to this arrangement and the government was currently examining the matter.

Will stop winter session if demands not met: Nomadic communities

BENGALURU, DHNS

The nomadic SC communities warned the government on Wednesday that they would not allow the upcoming Belagavi session of the legislature (mostly in December) to function if their reservation demands were not met.

At the massive 'Bengaluru Chalo' organised at Freedom Park here, the Karnataka Untouchable Nomadic Communities' Federation urged the government to provide 1% reservation to 59 'most backward' communities (49 nomadic and semi-nomadic communities and 10 highly sensitive communities) under group A (first priority) as recommended by the Nagamohan Das commission report.

Stating that they were giving a call for Belagavi Chalo, the resolution announced that they would gherao the Belagavi session with the slogan 'Justice or Jail'.

A huge crowd flocked to the venue from across the state. Several persons from communities such as Beda/Budga Jangama, Sudugadu Siddha, Sillekyatha, Sindholu and Channa Dasari assembled at the venue, with some even coming in their traditional performative attire.

Members of the Karnataka Untouchable Nomadic Communities' Federation stage a protest, demanding 1% separate internal reservation for nomadic communities, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Activist-journalist Shivasundar, actor Chethan Ahimsa, Dalit leaders Ambanna Ambalikar and others spoke on the occasion and urged the government to reverse its decision.

While the Das Commission had recommended that the 17% reservation for SCs should be divided amongst 5 categories (A-1%, B-6%, C-5%, D-4% and E-1%), the government reduced it to three groups and eventually decided in favour of a 6-6-5 formula for A, B and C groups, respectively.

The resolution slammed the government's decision as being against social justice and against the recommendations of the Supreme Court's August 1, 2024 judgment and the Das commission report.

Some nomadic community leaders are likely to meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday before the Cabinet meeting.

CM's 'You know Kannada?' poser to Prez sparks BJP backlash

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP leaders, including former minister Suresh Kumar and state president B Y Vijayendra, on Wednesday, sharply condemned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for his question 'You know Kannada?' to President Droupadi Murmu during her visit to Mysuru for the platinum jubilee celebrations of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing.

Siddaramaiah asked the question, while welcoming the President and later spoke in Kannada, emphasising the state's official language.

Suresh Kumar accused the chief minister of double standards and political hypocrisy, questioning why he never asked the same of former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, sarcastically implying Siddaramaiah's disrespect towards the president, while shielding his party leader.

Vijayendra called Siddaramaiah's conduct 'arrogant and condescending,' terming it an 'unsavoury incident' that violated the state's hospitality tradition.

He stressed Kannada should unite, not divide, condemning the use of language politics for 'division and political opportunism'.

Both leaders praised President Murmu's grace and humility, noting her pledge to learn Kannada and respect for India's diverse languages and cultures.

The state BJP chief accused the chief minister of a "divisive and disrespectful mindset," asserting that "Karnataka deserves better."

HC notice to ED in plea against Cong MLA Veerendra's arrest

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday ordered notice to the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in a petition filed by R D Chaitra, wife of Congress MLA K C Veerendra Puppy, who is under judicial custody in connection with a case pertaining to illegal online betting and managing gambling websites. Justice M I Arun directed the respondent ED to file its response to the petition.

On July 22, 2025, the ED registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) against Veerendra allegedly on the basis of four FIRs registered against him over 10 to 15 years.

All these FIRs were relating to alleged cricket betting and gambling activities. Subsequently, the ED registered an addendum ECIR in relation to an FIR registered at Cyber Crime police station, Cyberabad in Telangana and another registered at Harohalli police station in Bengaluru South district.

After a search and seizure in Karnataka and Goa, the ED arrested Veerendra on August 23.

The petition alleges that no 'proceeds of crime' exist as defined under section 2 (1) (u) of the Prevention of Money Laundering (PML) Act. It was stated that Veerendra was either acquitted or cases against him were quashed and hence the arrest was illegal.

The petitioner claimed that Veerendra's arrest pursuant to the issuance of the grounds of arrest from Gangtok, Sikkim, was without jurisdiction as well as illegal, arbitrary and violative of his fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

The petition said that none of the companies, cited by the ED, were registered in Veerendra's name nor is he associated with them.

Being an elected representative, he has filed assets and liabilities at the time of his candidature, which is a public document, the petition said.

"The ED is illegally usurping the powers vested with the state police and is encroaching upon the territory of the police for manufacturing and investigating an offence, which is directly in conflict with the federal structure and constitutional scheme," the petition said.

KGF Babu appears before Lokayukta in a case against Zameer

BENGALURU, DHNS: Yusuf Sharif, aka KGF Babu, on Wednesday appeared before the Karnataka Lokayuka police in Bengaluru to submit documents in connection with a case related to Housing, Wakf and Minority Welfare Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan.

Sharif responded to a notice dated August 22 served under Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). In the notice, the investigating officer told Babu that he hadn't provided the documents sought by them and asked him to appear before them.

The Lokayukta police had sought financial transaction details from two firms - Reddy Structure and Scots Garments Ltd - as well as his IT returns for the assessment years 2009-10 to 2013-14, and a joint development document with Reddy Structure.

After appearing before the Lokayukta, Sharif said that he had lent Khan Rs 3.50 crore to build a house. "We have no business relationship. In 2013, he asked for my help to buy a house, so I lent him the money. I reminded him a few times to repay it, but he couldn't. When the ED raided Khan, I told them that the money was a loan. I was summoned by the ED and recorded my statement," he said.

Fresh ED raids on MLA; luxury cars seized

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it had initiated fresh search operations on the premises linked to Congress MLA K C Veerendra Puppy, in connection with illegal online and offline betting case.

The raids were conducted in Bengaluru and Challakere in Chitradurga district under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, PMLA, 2002, on Tuesday.

During the searches, five high-end vehicles were seized.

"Further, an amount of Rs 55 crore (approximately) were marked freeze, including Rs 40.69 crore (approximately) in nine bank accounts and one Demat account of Veerendra and Rs 14.46 crore (approximately) in 262 mule accounts recovered from one of the accused gateways through which money collected by multiple gaming websites being operated by Veerendra and his associates were being routed," the agency said.

"The said searches and tracing of Proceeds of Crime (POC) have been undertaken during the ED custody of prime accused Veerendra," it said. Puppy is currently in ED custody after his arrest on August 23, following raids the previous day.

"It has been revealed that several gateways have been used for routing payments collected through these websites. The money collected from these websites being operated Veerendra and his associates through single gateway alone is more than Rs 2,000 cr in a short span of time," the agency said. "ED investigation revealed that the said mule accounts are provided by various middlemen to operators of these gaming websites, in this case Appu alias Pruthvi N Raj (Veerendra's nephew), who in turn use the same to collect funds received from various players," the agency said.

"These transactions include layering the said money deposits of players through escrow accounts of gateways and TSPs and then making settlement in mule accounts which are controlled by gaming site owners. These funds are further siphoned off in various ways, including through hawala transactions. It has been revealed that the MLA and his associates in Dubai are operating several gaming websites by using various gateways and fintech service providers for layering of funds and for masking illicit activities as genuine e-commerce businesses," it said.

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Youth electrocuted during Ganesha procession

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: A youth was electrocuted while two others sustained severe burns when they came in contact with live wire during the Ganesha immersion procession here on Tuesday night.

While Shivaji alias Shubham Sakpal (21), a resident of Ramprasad Galli, died on spot, Lakhan Chavan and Prabhu Jagate suffered severe burns and were rushed to hospital.

The accident occurred when the trio were manually clearing the wire pushing it with a stick.

D'sthala: Complainant-witness under SIT custody till September 6

He has failed to reveal location of skeletal remains

MANGALURU, DHNS

The 45-year-old complainant-witness in the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case was remanded in the custody of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) up to September 6 by the JMFC Court in Belthangady on Wednesday.

The complainant witness, who was arrested by the SIT for giving false information on August 22, was produced before the JMFC court after the end of 12-day police custody.

The complainant-witness, who had submitted skeletal remains claiming to have exhumed them from a burial site in Dharmasthala, had failed to reveal the exact location of the skull to the SIT officials.

After the skeletal remains were identified as belonging to a male, the complainant-witness had confessed to the SIT that they were not exhumed from the site of mass burials, sources in the SIT said.

The SIT had initially arrested the complainant-witness for perjury under section 229 (punishment for false evidence) of BNS.

The SIT, after securing his custody for 12 days from the JMFC court in Belthangady on August 23, had recorded his statements on the skeletal remains in his possession, the sources said.

The SIT officials also collected information about the places where he had sought shelter before filing a complaint.

The SIT officials accompanied the complainant-witness houses of activist Mahesh Shetty Thimarodi and his brother Mohan Shetty, near Ujire, another complainant Jayanth T's rented house in Peenya, a service apartment in Vidyaranyapura in Bengaluru, a resort on Ujire-Charmady Road, among others and conducted the mahajar process.

Sources in the SIT said that after the mahajar process sections 227 (giving false evidence), 228 (fabricating false evidence), 230 (fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of capital offence), 231 (fabricating evidence with intent to procure conviction of life imprisonment), 236 (false declaration), 240 (giving false information), 248 (false charge), and 336 (forgery) of BNS were added in the FIR registered against him.

The JMFC Court upheld the arguments of the public prosecutor appearing on behalf of SIT and extended the custody up to September 6, informed sources in SIT.

HDK likely to meet Shah; demand NIA probe

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy is likely to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah to put pressure on the Central government to hand over the Dharmasthala case to NIA.

The sources from the JD(S) party have confirmed this to DH and said that Kumaraswamy was planning to meet Shah in a couple of days.

Meanwhile, JD(S) Youth President Nikhil Kumaraswamy also stressed for the NIA probe into the case and said, "There are reports about international funding and organised conspiracy. This needs to be investigated, and the NIA must intervene and take up the case."

Nikhil stated that issues like international funding will not come out of the SIT investigation. "Even Kumaraswamy has made some moves regarding the Dharmasthala issue. All the union ministers from Karnataka must put pressure on the Centre and seek an NIA investigation," he said.

Amrita University holds meet on sustainable future

Swami Poornamritananda Puri (centre) with Dr P Ajith Kumar (left) presents a memento to Dr Tim Curtis.

Addressing the International Conference on Sustainable and Resilient Futures held at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's Amritapuri campus on August 29, 2025, Dr Tim Curtis, Director, UNESCO - Delhi Office and Representative for India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives, said, "Education is not only a fundamental right of every human being but also the power to build a better future. He highlighted that while UNESCO collaborates with many stakeholders worldwide to harness the power of education, partnerships with institutions such as Amrita University are exemplary. He noted that this long-standing collaboration has enabled UNESCO to work closely with Amrita for many years.

Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner of Karnataka, and K V Shaji, Chairman, NABARD, were chief guests at the inaugural session. Swami Poornamritananda Puri, General Secretary, Mata Amritanandamayi Math, delivered the benedictory address. Senior leaders from Amrita, including Dr P Ajith Kumar, Registrar; Dr Maneesha V Ramesh, Provost; Dr Bipin G Nair, Dean, Amrita School of Biotechnology; and Dr M Ravishankar, Principal, Amrita School for Sustainable Futures; also took part.

The international conference, was organised by the Amrita School for Sustainable Futures, the UNESCO Chair on Experiential Learning for Sustainable Innovation and Development, and the International Network for Sustainable Innovation and Resilient Futures. It featured nine tracks covering a wide range of themes such as climate, environmental restoration and sustainability.

Around 80 expert lectures, hackathons, symposiums, an NGO conclave with the participation of organizations from across India, workshops, paper presentations and panel discussions were conducted. It was organised in a completely carbon-neutral manner - the first time such an initiative has been undertaken in Asia. Three digital platforms were also launched during the conference, including the Sustainability and Resilience by Community Engagement and Empowerment (SREE) platform, designed to strengthen sustainability and resilience at multiple levels of society by using geo-enabled indicators.

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HC upholds mandatory jute packaging for sugar industry

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The high court has dismissed petitions seeking to exclude sugar from the purview of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

The petitions, filed by the South Indian Sugar Mills Association, Karnataka and the Indian Sugar Mills Association, challenged various notifications issued by the Union government mandating that 20% of sugar manufactured must be packed in jute bags.

The mandatory jute packaging material to be used in the foodgrains industry is to the tune of 100% and in the sugar industry to the tune of 20%. The petitioners submitted that the notifications aimed solely at promoting the jute industry and pose a health hazard to citizens. It was contended that the jute to be converted to bags must use jute batching oil for the packing of food materials like sugar.

The petitioners cited various reports wherein it is stated that the use of jute batching oil for weaving jute into bags is tumorigenic (something that tends to produce tumours).

According to the petitioners, governments in Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh have all cited concerns on the contamination of jute batching oil with sugar and its consequent health concerns.

The Additional Solicitor General of India (ASG) submitted that the Act's mandate cannot be relaxed for the convenience of the sugar industry. It was submitted that the notifications are the product of several deliberations of the committee, approved by the prime minister, all in the interest of farmers.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted the observations of the Apex Court while considering the enactment, when the use of jute bags was 100% in the sugar industry and 70% in the cement industry. The Apex Court had pointed out that the economic policy to render socio-economic justice to growers of raw jute and workmen was based on the constitutional policy under the Directive Principles of State Policy.

"Once the compulsion of 100% packaging upon the sugar industry was upheld by the Supreme Court, the present grievance against a mere 20% reservation can scarcely aspire to higher favour," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court said, "The jute batching oil, after its use, is again covered by another thin layer to block perforation and pilferage of sugar or dropping out of sugar, causing moisture of sugar, owing to its hygroscopic nature. Since this has been in use, all of which can be analysed for the ensuing year by the Standing Advisory Committee. This court would hold its hands in declaration that it is carcinogenic, without the report at the outset being placed before the Standing Advisory Committee. This Court holds that the imposition of 20% of jute bags in the sugar industry is neither arbitrary nor unreasonable."

UKP: Govt holds talks with farmers

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government may clinch a deal with farmers to acquire land for the Upper Krishna Project (UKP Phase 3) at a feasible rate.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the Water Resources Minister, chaired a meeting with farmer leaders and elected representatives from the region on Wednesday to discuss the issue.

After the meeting, he said another round of meetings will be convened on Thursday and that he will also discuss the issue with the Finance Department.

"Even the Union government has communicated positively. With this, we are hoping to take a final decision on the project in a day or two. Meanwhile, we will meet again on Thursday before the cabinet meeting, convey the decision to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and also discuss it in the cabinet meeting," Shivakumar said.

He requested that farmers demanding higher compensation also consider the government's position.

Displeasure

During the meeting, Shivakumar expressed displeasure with one of his cabinet colleagues who proposed Rs 50 lakh per acre as compensation.

When Excise Minister R B Timmapur said that Rs 50 lakh per acre should be given to the farmers who lose land for the project, Shivakumar seemed upset and said, "You are a minister; don't talk like a third party."

Deve Gowda praises PM's strategy after US tariffs

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda on Wednesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts in actively seeking alternatives after the United States initiated an "unreasonable and unjust tariff war".

Gowda said in a letter to Modi: "The policy of 'multi-alignment' that you followed is bound to offer rich dividends in the near future. The world has only begun to understand its importance and pragmatism," said the JD(S) supremo. He called it a "very constructive and positive formulation" compared to our earlier policy of non-alignment".

"Times have changed and we need a new language to pursue our fair dreams. We should interact with the world as per our needs, on our terms, but with also enormous civilisational grace that we possess. That will make India stand out," Gowda said.

The former PM said the US may eventually have to reconsider its stance because "dharma" is on India's side, and the nation offers a blend of economic, demographic and democratic advantages like no other. Hailing Modi for speaking to President Putin about ending the war in Ukraine, Gowda said, "You have been consistent on this issue, and I am sure India's words are taken far more seriously in this regard for the sincerity it is filled with.

"The photographs and videos of yourself with President Putin (of Russia) and President Xi Jinping (of China) that have flooded the media across the globe communicated something beyond routine bonhomie and friendship between heads of states," he said.

Gowda said they symbolised a "new awakening" and perhaps the beginning of a new world order with India at its centre.

Former GP president shot dead in salon; four arrested

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: In a swift action, the Vijayapura police have arrested four men on charges of murdering Bhimanagouda Biradar, the former president of Devaranimbaragi gram panchayat in Chadchan taluk, on Wednesday.

According to Superintendent of Police Laxman Nimbaragi, four suspects Wasim Maniyar, Razeeullah Makandar, Moulasab Boragi and Firoze Shaikh Avarad have been arrested hours after the murder.

The assailants, wearing masks, barged into a salon in the village, threw chilli powder at the victim and the barber before firing three to four rounds from a country-made pistol at Biradar, who bled to death at the spot.

Bhimanagouda Biradar

"A preliminary probe has revealed that a financial dispute and political and personal rivalry were the motives behind the murder. The police are investigating all the angles to establish the exact motive behind the gruesome," the SP said.

During the questioning one of the suspects is believed to have revealed to the police that Biradar had taken Rs 1 lakh with a promise to allot him an Ashraya house when he was the GP president. But he didn't allot the house nor did he return the money. Hence, they shot him dead, the suspect is said to have confessed to the police.

Meanwhile, the wife of slain Biradar has lodged a police complaint that the accused had threatened her husband in a case nowhere concerned to him.

Locals said that the political rivalry was the motive behind the murder of Biradar. Biradar had firm control over the gram panchayat for the last 10 years. His supporter had emerged as a strong contender for the GP president post, the election for which was due. In a bid to wrest the control over the GP, his rivals murdered him," the locals alleged.

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Any person or institutions or Banks having any right, title, interest or lien over the schedule property or objecting to purchase by my clients, shall lodge such objections, if any, with the undersigned with supporting documents within 15 days from the date of this publication. Objections received thereafter will not be considered and my clients will proceed with the completion of purchase of schedule property deeming that there are no objections.
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Fund shortage hits Anjanadri Hill development

Only Rs 10 crore has been released so far

The government has approved a plan worth Rs 200 crore to provide basic infrastructure at the Anjanadri Hill, the fabled birthplace of Lord Hanuman, in Gangavathi taluk in Koppal district. DH FILE PHOTO

BENGALURU, DHNS

Shortage of funds has hit the state government's plan to develop Anjanadri Hill in Koppal district, the fabled birthplace of Lord Hanuman, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was told at a review meeting on Wednesday.

The government has approved a plan worth Rs 200 crore to provide basic infrastructure at the pilgrimage centre. The government wants to provide dormitories, access paths for senior citizens, a community hall, tourist-friendly facilities and so on. Only Rs 10 crore has been released so far.

To take up the works approved, the government needs to acquire 77.28 acres of private land. However, land acquisition has not been done because of a fund shortage, Siddaramaiah was told, according to a statement from his office.

In total, the government needs to acquire 101.30 acres of private land for which the finance department, which reports to Siddaramaiah, will have to sanction funds.

The Anjanadri Hill overlooks the Tungabhadra river. On the other side of the river stands Hampi, the world heritage site believed to be 'Kishkindha', the mythological kingdom of Vanaras or monkeys. Anjanadri Hill and Hampi are some 20 km apart.

There are mythological references to Anjanadri, the birthplace of Hanuman, and 'Kishkindha' figures in the Ramayana. With many places in and around Hampi that have references in the epic, it is believed that Kishkindha and Hampi are the same.

In 2022-23, then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai provided Rs 100 crore for "comprehensive development" of the Anjanadri Hill. Siddaramaiah followed it up with an allocation of Rs 100 crore in 2024-25.

During the review meeting, Siddaramaiah noted that lakhs of people, including those from north India, visit the shrine atop the Anjanadri Hill during Hanuma Jayanti.

Most of the approved development works at Anjanadri Hill come under the forest department. Accordingly, Siddaramaiah directed authorities to take necessary steps to obtain forest clearances.

The government has already approved a ropeway project for Anjanadri Hill under public-private partnership (PPP), Siddaramaiah added. The CM also directed officials to develop Anjanadri Hill such that people get to know about its historical and spiritual importance.

Tourism Minister H K Patil and senior officials attended the review meeting.

RUAS-SUNY knowledge partnership opens up courses in semiconductor space

(Left to right) Prof Kuldeep K Raina, Dr M R Jayaram, Dr Havidan Rodríguez and Prof Thenkurussi (Kesh) Kesavadas announce a landmark Knowledge Partnership in Nano Scale Science and Engineering between Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru, and the University at Albany, State University of New York.

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS), Bengaluru, and the University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY), announced a landmark Knowledge Partnership in the field of Nano Scale Science and Engineering. The collaboration will advance academic excellence, skills development and research innovation in India's rapidly-growing semiconductor ecosystem.

As part of this partnership, RUAS will introduce specialised certificate programmes delivered in collaboration with SUNY Albany in semiconductor manufacturing, semiconductor patterning and processing, and semiconductor metrology.

The certificate programmes, designed to meet cutting-edge industry needs, will be open to students and working professionals beginning January 2026. Importantly, these graduate certificates can be completed remotely, enabling RUAS students and industry professionals in India easy access SUNY Albany's globally-recognised expertise.

The University at Albany will provide technical support to establish a Static Nano Technology Laboratory at RUAS to train students in advanced nanotechnology techniques. In the academic year 2026–27, RUAS, in partnership with SUNY Albany, will also launch a B.Tech Programme in Nano Scale Science and Engineering.

Speaking on the knowledge partnership, University at Albany's President Havidan Rodriguez said, "International collaborations like this one with Ramaiah University are critical to the mission of a globally-engaged research institution and will ensure our excellent academic programmes in nanotechnology continue to have the broadest reach possible at a time of remarkable growth in this industry".

Dr M R Jayaram, Chancellor, RUAS, who pioneered this knowledge partnership emphasised the transformative dimension of the collaboration. "The future of education will necessarily entail integrating human intelligence, artificial intelligence and technology in the generation of knowledge. We must prepare ourselves for the brave new world of nanotechnology, robotics, and artificial intelligence. The Nano Science and Technology Knowledge Partnership between Ramaiah University and University at Albany will be a pioneering pathway to advance knowledge and skills in India."

University at Albany's Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Prof Thenkurussi (Kesh) Kesavadas, added, "We are thrilled to announce this partnership". Prof Kuldeep K Raina, Vice Chancellor, RUAS, said, "This is an important initiative to enhance excellence and achieve global standards in delivering science and technology education in India. The size of India's semiconductor industry is projected to double to as much as USD 110 billion by 2030. RUAS is committed to making our students and industry professionals skills-ready for this."

Curated by DH Brandspot

Deshpande's retort to woman scribe's query draws flak

BJP to hold protest in Uttara Kannada district today

KARWAR/BENGALURU, DHNS

A remark by Karnataka State Administrative Reforms Commission Chairman R V Deshpande to a woman journalist has sparked controversy.

The controversy erupted on Monday, when a popular TV journalist asked Deshpande, "Will steps be taken to set up a multi-speciality hospital? There are problems even for childbirth here."

Deshpande

To this, Deshpande jokingly quipped, "Let me know if you have to deliver, I'll get it done in Haliyal."

The clip subsequently went viral on social media, with Deshpande, a senior politician, drawing flak for remarks that were dubbed 'insulting, dismissive and misogynistic'.

Demonstration

Karnataka BJP on Wednesday announced that it would hold a demonstration in Uttara Kannada district on Thursday to protest remarks made towards the female journalist by Congress veteran and Chairman of the Administrative Reforms Commission R V Deshpande.

Dubbing Deshpande's remarks 'vulgar and demeaning,' president of the Karnataka BJP Mahila Morcha C Manjula said in Bengaluru, "The protest is intended to send a strong message against institutionalised sexism in politics".

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra charged Deshpande with trivialising a very serious problem.

"Pregnant women are facing a problem owing to a lack of proper hospitals, and when a female journalist brought this to the attention of Deshpande, his response was not in keeping with his age, experience and stature," wrote Vijayendra on 'X'.

He added that Deshpande's remarks reflected a lack of regard for the struggles faced by women.

"He (Deshpande) must retract his words and apologise to women hurt by his statements," said Vijayendra.

INVITATION FOR DASARA

Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Lakshmikanth Reddy invites the International Booker Prize-winning Kannada author Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate Dasara festival, in Hassan on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Conspiracy against me using AI, says Bhovi corpn chief

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: Reacting to the alleged scam, Bhovi Development Corporation Chairman S Ravikumar claimed that a conspiracy has been hatched against him using artificial intelligence (AI) technology, targeting him for bringing discipline and transparency into the corporation.

Speaking at a press conference, he said, "If the chief minister instructs, I will go to Bengaluru soon and tender my resignation. I have decided to resign, taking moral responsibility to prevent any embarrassment to the party."

He strongly denied the allegations of corruption.

I can contest and win from anywhere: Rajanna

MADHUGIRI (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS: Senior Congress legislator K N Rajanna said on Wednesday that he will win from wherever he contests, even as an independent.

This statement gains significance, amid speculations of him leaving Congress and joining the BJP. Ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, Rajanna had said that it was his last election. But now he has now dropped hints on contesting the next one.

Rajanna was sacked from the state Cabinet following the directions from party high command which took strong exceptions to his remarks on the party's vote theft agitation.

In a Janaspandana meet at Kodigehalli, Rajanna said that he would not join the BJP.

Big GST shake-up to turn common goods...

GST, From Page 1

"That special rate of 40% has also been proposed, and it's been cleared and will apply only to paan masala, cigarettes, gutka, and other tobacco products such as chewing tobacco, products like zarda, unmanufactured tobacco and bidi," the finance minister said.

"All goods, including aerated waters containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured, caffeinated beverages, carbonated beverages of fruit drink or carbonated beverages with fruit juice and other non-alcoholic beverages, excluding those specified at lower rates, will all be covered under 40%."

While all the states agreed on rate rationalisation, eight Opposition-ruled states, including Karnataka, West Bengal, Kerala, Jharkhand, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Punjab, demanded compensation for losses from the rate cut.

Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda pitched for an additional levy mechanism to safeguard state revenues. Gowda urged the GST Council to come out with a transparent mechanism to calculate losses from the proposed rate cuts.

Analysts said the rate cuts would positively impact the economy by boosting consumption. "By putting more money back into the hands of consumers, this move will provide a much-needed consumption stimulus to reorient India's economic growth toward domestic demand," said Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner, EY India

"This unified decision by the Centre and states demonstrates a strong commitment to economic reform and will help offset external headwinds," Agarwal added.

"The reforms provide immediate relief to families and strengthen the foundation for growth," said Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII.

Visit rain-hit areas, submit reports: BYV to BJP dist units

BENGALURU, DHNS: As heavy rains continue to lash the state, causing widespread damage to crops, roads, homes, and livelihoods, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Wednesday wrote a letter to all district BJP presidents and instructed party leaders across the state to visit rain-affected areas and submit detailed reports on the extent of damage to the BJP state office by September 8.

JD(S) team to tour rain-hit regions of the state from September 9

BENGALURU, DHNS: A group of JD(S) legislators and leaders, led by the party's Youth Wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy, will visit the rain-affected regions of the state and interact with farmers who have lost their crops.

The tour will begin on September 9, said Nikhil, who was addressing a news conference here on Wednesday. "Farmers in rain-hit areas have taken loans for crops. We demand the government to consider farm loan waiver by surveying the affected areas," he added.

Nikhil stated, "Crops across lakhs of hectares have been damaged, and people have lost homes and are experiencing hardships due to floods. The government, however, is following an anti-farmer policy. The in-charge ministers of districts have not even heard the pleas of distressed farmers let alone help them."

Following the failure of the government to respond to farmers, the JD(S) will undertake a state tour to listen to the problems of flood victims. "We will visit all the places and submit a factual report to the government," he added.

MLA booked for 'insulting' remarks against woman SP

DAVANGERE, DHNS: The Davangere police have registered a FIR against Harihar MLA B P Harish of the BJP over his alleged insulting remark against Superintendent of Police (SP) Uma Prashanth, on Wednesday.

B P Harish

The KTJ Nagar police have registered a case against the MLA under BNS Section 79 and 132 following the complaint by the SP.

It may be mentioned here that the Harihar legislator B P Harish had likened the police officer to a dog while addressing a press conference, on Tuesday,

'Waits like a dog'

The BJP legislator had said, "When the Opposition MLAs come to the meeting, the Superintendent of Police does not even greet them. When the elected representatives from the Shamanur family come, the officer behaves like a dog. The officer waits like a 'dog' even on occasions when they arrive late to the events/meetings."

100-year-old paintings by Venkatappa infested...

Paintings, From Page 1

Currently, the paintings are being sent in batches to Intach for restoration every 25 days. The gallery is also planning to sign an MoU with the non-profit for annual monitoring of artworks. However, an annual inspection isn't enough, opined Nalini Biluka, founder and chief conservator at Indus Art Conservation Services. "Since this is a new environment for paintings, weekly inspections are required for at least the next one to two years. Only then can you determine what is required to maintain the paintings," she said.

The recommended levels of temperature to maintain such artworks are 22-25 °C, along with 45 to 55% humidity. "Fungal growth occurs when the humidity levels go higher than this. Digital hygrometers can be installed for monitoring the temperature," she added. Cleaning and restoring a fungal-ridden painting can take anywhere between six months to a year. Loss of colour and flaking of pigment is expected from such fungal growth.

The Venkatappa Art Gallery Forum, comprising artists from across the state, presented a letter to Law Minister H K Patil on Wednesday, raising concerns about the gallery. "The paintings should never have reached this condition. Even before the gallery was inaugurated, several artists had raised concerns regarding humid conditions in the gallery. They would keep the AC on the entire day and then at night lock the doors with the AC off. Darkness, humidity and high temperature are the perfect breeding ground for fungus. The gallery was supposed to have an advisory committee with artists to deal with such matters, but there's no news of that either," said artist Sheela Gowda, a member of the forum.

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU

No. BASEU/DPE Appt/2023-24 Date: 03-09-2025

NOTIFICATION

Sub: **Hiring of Assistant Professor in Computer Science (Ad-hoc basis) and Physical Education Co-ordinator on contract basis at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru.**

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for working as **"Assistant Professor in Computer Science (Ad-hoc basis)** and **Physical Education Co-ordinator** on contract basis" at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru.

For further details viz., Qualifications, experience, nature of duties, consolidated emoluments, period of contract etc., they may visit the University website **www.base.ac.in** The last date for submission of application is **12-09-2025 at 5.00 pm.**

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/CP/YC/2617/2025-26

Contact us: Jnana Bharathi Main Road, Nagarbhavi P.O. Bengaluru Karnataka - 560072. Active Helpdesk : 080-29557767 E-mail: info@base.ac.in

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-mail: helpdesk@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

No. BMRCL/HR/0017/PRJ/2025 Date: 03.09.2025

NOTIFICATION FOR CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

BMRCL invites applications from qualified and experienced officers for appointment to the following post in the Project Wing on Contract basis.

Sl.No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
1	Dy. Company Secretary/Assistant Company Secretary	01

Last date for receipt of online application is **25/09/2025** and for receipt of signed application with supporting documents is **04.00 PM on 30/09/2025.**

For details regarding eligibility criteria, salary, application process and other information, please visit BMRCL website: **www.bmrc.co.in / Career Section**

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager (HR)

Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGIPT)
Institution of National Importance under MoPNG, Govt. of India
RGIPT Jais Campus, Amethi, U.P. Website: www.rgipt.ac.in

RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR NON-TEACHING STAFF

Advt. No.: RGIPT/NTS/01/2025

RGIPT invites ONLINE application from eligible candidates for the appointment on following Non-Teaching positions:

Positions at RGIPT Jais Campus

1. Registrar (On Deputation)
2. Finance Officer (On Deputation)
3. Deputy Registrar
4. Medical Officer
5. Assistant Registrar
6. Superintendent (Grade-I)
7. Technical Superintendent (Grade-I)
8. Assistant (Grade-I)
9. Technician (Grade-I)

Positions at RGIPT Sivasagar Campus

1. Assistant Registrar
2. Superintendent- (Grade-I)
3. Technical Superintendent (Grade-I)
4. System Superintendent (Grade-I)
5. Assistant (Grade-I)

Positions at RGIPT Bengaluru Campus

1. Assistant Registrar
2. Technical Superintendent (Grade-I)

For eligibility criteria and online application visit:
https://rgipt.ac.in/en/page/regular-position

Last date of Application Submission: September 30, 2025

Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology
Institution of National Importance under MoPNG, Govt. of India
RGIPT Jais Campus, Amethi, U.P. Website: www.rgipt.ac.in

HIRING PROJECT ASSISTANTS FOR INDUSTRY-FOCUSED RESEARCH

Applications are invited for the recruitment of Project Assistants in the targeted areas decided by RGIPT as per Indian industrial needs to support Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India's in 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' initiative. The Institute offers a monthly salary of ₹9,000/- to selected project assistants and provides opportunities to work in world class research facility under the guidance of highly qualified faculty members.

The selected project assistant may get the chance to enroll as PhD student at RGIPT during Even Semester of the Academic Year 2025-26 provided they fulfill the eligibility criteria for the PhD admission.

Eligibility Criteria

Qualification	Minimum Marks/CPI
Master's in Engineering and allied discipline	60% or 6.0 CPI
Master's in Science and allied discipline	65% or 6.5 CPI
Bachelor's in Engineering and allied discipline	75% or 7.5 CPI

For more information on targeted areas, eligibility criteria and online application visit:
https://rgipt.ac.in/en/page/project-assistants

Last date of Application Submission: September 12, 2025

Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology
Institution of National Importance under MoPNG, Govt. of India
RGIPT Jais Campus, Amethi, U.P. Website: www.rgipt.ac.in

RECRUITMENT OF NON-TEACHING STAFF (TEMPORARY/CONTRACT)

Purchase Officer, Public Relations Officer, and Intellectual Property Officer

RGIPT invites applications from highly motivated & eligible candidates (Indian Nationals) for appointment to the following Temporary/Contract positions of non-teaching staff.

Post	Category	Vacancy	Max. Age	Pay
Purchase Officer	UR	01	65 years	Rs. 1,00,000/-
Public Relations Officer	UR	01	60 years	Rs. 50,000/-
Intellectual Property Officer	UR	01	65 years	Rs. 30,000/- plus outcome-based incentives per patent

Note: Higher pay may be considered in case the selection committee finds an exceptionally qualified or highly experienced aspirant, solely at the discretion of the selection committee.

For eligibility criteria and online application visit:
https://rgipt.ac.in/en/page/nts-contractual-position

Last date of Application Submission: September 21, 2025

Cabinet gives nod to recycle critical minerals

Approves Rs 1,500 crore incentive scheme; aims 40K tonnes output

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a major step to boost domestic supply chain resilience, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 1,500 crore incentive scheme to promote recycling of e-waste and battery waste for the extraction of critical minerals.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved a Rs 1,500 crore incentive scheme to develop recycling capacity in the country for the separation and production of critical minerals from secondary sources, " the statement said.

The scheme will have a tenure of six years from FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31. Eligible feedstock is e-waste, Lithium Ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and scrap other than e-waste & LIB scrap, e.g., catalytic convertors in end-of-life vehicles. Expected beneficiaries will be both large, established recyclers and small, new recyclers (including start-ups), for whom one-third of the scheme's outlay has been earmarked.

The scheme will be applicable to investments in new units as well as expansion of capacity/modernisation and diversification of existing units. It will provide an incentive for the recycling value chain, which is involved in the actual extraction of critical minerals, and not the value chain involved in only black mass production.

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

"This decision by the Union Cabinet pertaining to an incentive scheme to promote critical mineral recycling will boost capacities to recycle battery waste and e-waste, promote investment and encourage job creation.

The incentives under the scheme will comprise 20% Capex subsidy on plant and machinery, equipment, and associated utilities for starting production within the specified timeframe, beyond which a reduced subsidy applicable; and Opex subsidy, which will be an incentive on incremental sales over the base year (FY 2025-26), viz. 40% of the eligible Opex subsidy in the 2nd year and the remaining 60% in the 5th year from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 on achievement of the specified threshold incremental sales.

In order to ensure a greater number of beneficiaries, the total incentive (Capex plus Opex subsidy) per entity will be subject to an overall ceiling of Rs 50 crore for large entities and Rs 25 crore for small entities, within which there will be a ceiling for Opex subsidy of Rs 10 crore and Rs 5 crore, respectively.

In terms of key outcomes, the scheme incentives are expected to develop at least 270 kilo tonnes of annual recycling capacity, resulting in around 40 kilo tonnes critical mineral production, bringing in about Rs 8,000 crore of investment and creating close to 70,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Nagaland seeks minister-level interlocutor to solve Naga conflict

GUWAHATI, DHNS: In a significant development in the Naga political dialogue, a political affairs committee in Nagaland — comprising all MLAs, MPs, and senior leaders — adopted a resolution on Wednesday to request the Central government to appoint a political or ministerial-level interlocutor to break the impasse in the talks.

The committee, chaired by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, resolved that the peace talks with Naga rebel groups should resume at the political level to expedite the negotiation process.

"The House appealed to the Central government to elevate the ongoing dialogue and peace process to the highest political level by appointing an interlocutor at the political level/ministerial level, who has the confidence and mandate of the government," said a statement issued by the Nagaland government after the meeting.

"The House appreciated the negotiating parties, namely the Government of India and the Naga political groups, of the ongoing Indo-Naga political dialogue for continuing to uphold the principles of the ceasefire agreements and ensuring that there is no breakdown of the talks despite facing several challenges and hurdles in the past two decades," it added.

The House appealed to all sections of Naga society to make further efforts to strengthen their unity and oneness. The House also agreed that all participants of the meeting would make more efforts for the Naga society's unity.

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE CITY CORPORATION BELLARY
Tel: 08392-273479 / 278168
Fax: 08392-273477
Website: www.bellarycity.gov.in
E-mail: bellarycommissioner@yahoo.co.in
Gadagi Chennappa Circle (Royal Circle) Ballary- 583101

No.CCB/ENG/ELE/15FIN/01/2024-25/2025-26 Date: 02.09.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through e-procurement portal only)

The tenders are invited for the Various works under 15th Finance 2024-25 and Water/General Fund of Corporation Fund in Ballari City Corporation Limits through e-procurement portal, Government of Karnataka https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal.home as per KW-2 to KW-3 of Standard Document from the eligible contractors, following are the Indent No. DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT48744, DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 48753, DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT48754 and DMA/2025-26/IND5332 Tender documents can be downloaded from the new e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka Last date for submission of tender before 18.09.2025 at 17.00 hours, Date of Opening of Technical Bid on 19.09.2025 at 17.30 hours, Date of Opening of Financial Bid is on 23.09.2025 at 10.00 AM Transaction fee and EMD as per KPP-Portal. For further details contact this office Phone No: 08392-273479 and e-mail ID: bellarycommissioner@yahoo.co.in

Commissioner,
Ballari City Corporation, Ballari

HOSKOTE PLANNING AUTHORITY
Mission Hospital Road, 1st Cross, Sri. Venkatadri Layout, Hoskote - 562114, Bangalore rural District.
Phone / Fax: 080-27934470 / 27935412.
E-mail: hosakote.pa@gmail.com URL: www.hoskote.tpa.gov.in

No: HPA/e-auction/FD/01/2025-26 Date: 03-09-2025

NOTICE

"e-Auction notification for Investment of Surplus Funds of Hoskote Planning Authority has been published in e-Procurement Portal of GOK. For details visit **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**"

e-Auction Notice No: **TPA/2025-26/AUCTION52**

Sd/-
Joint Director of Town & Country Planning & Member Secretary,
Hoskote Planning Authority, Hoskote.

DIPR/CP/2628/Adverto/2025-26

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/F-34/Vol-16/835 Date: 03.09.2025

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Sub: Public hearing on "Fixation of Norms and Determination of Tariff for FY26 for procurement of Power from Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) based Power Generating Plants" - Reg.

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission has issued a discussion paper on the above subject which is available on KERC Website viz., **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

The Commission will hold a Public hearing in the matter **on Tuesday, the 16.09.2025 at 3:30 P.M. in the Court Hall of the Commission at First floor, #16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052.**

Interested persons are requested to attend the Public hearing and submit their views / comments / suggestions, before the Commission.

Sd/- Secretary
For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

DIPR/CP/2618/2025-26

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
Phone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-2/AE-1&8/TND/15th Finance/2025-26/1866 Date: 02.09.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-2)

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites Short Term tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in two tender document system in KPP Portal for **15th Finance Works -** approximate total project cost is **Rs.1693.70 lakhs, Refer KPP-portal for further details.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **20.09.2025 upto 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **22.09.2025 at 16.01 hrs.** The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/F-34/Vol-18/836 Date: 03.09.2025

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Sub: Public hearing on "Fixation of Norms and Determination of Tariff for Procurement of Power from Rooftop Aero Turbine with Solar or without Solar for FY26" - Reg.

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission has issued a discussion paper on the above subject which is available on KERC Website viz., **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

The Commission will hold a Public hearing in the matter **on Tuesday, the 16.09.2025 at 3:00 P.M in the Court Hall of the Commission at First floor, #16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052.**

Interested persons are requested to attend the Public hearing and submit their views / comments / suggestions, before the Commission.

Sd/- Secretary
For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

DIPR/CP/2616/2025-26

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
Office of the Registrar (Evaluation), Jnana Jyothi Central College Campus, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001. E-mail: registrarevlubeu@gmail.com , regev@bcu.ac.in, Ph.No.22295559/29572003,

Tender No: BCU/2025-26/IND0019/296 Date: 03.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement portal only) https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Name of the work	Secured Scanning of Answer booklet/Scripts at centralized Scanning centers without cutting the spine and online screen marking (digital evaluation) of answer scripts scanned
EMD amount	Rs. 11,70,000/-
Last date for queries	12.09.2025 16:30:00
Pre Bid meeting date and place	15.09.2025 11:30:00
Last date to receipt of Tenders	04.10.2025 16:30:00
Opening of Technical Bid	06.10.2025 12:30:00
Place of Opening of Tender	Office of the Registrar (Evaluation), Jnana Jyothi Central College Campus, Bengaluru City University, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001.

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

Sd/-
Registrar (Evaluation)

DIPR/CP/2620/SSC/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., KEONICS ISO 9001 : 2008
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
No 59, 1st Floor, Kumara Park West, Railway Parallel Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560020.

No.: KSEDCL/ITS/FD-007/2025-26 Date: 03.09.2025

Notification- Inviting Bids for Fixed Deposit

Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (KEONICS) intends to invest its surplus funds through e-Auction in term deposits with Public Sector Banks, RRBs, and Private Scheduled Commercial Banks. The information regarding the e-Auction is available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For any tender-related queries or further information, bidders may contact KEONICS during office hours at Telephone No. 080-2222 5645.

Sl. No.	Auction No.	Auction Title & Scope	Last date to submit Auction	Live Bidding for e-Auction
1	KEONICS/2025-26/AUCTION8	Fund Management Short Term e- Auction tender document for **Fund Management** (E-Auction Notification, Eligibility Criteria and Terms and Conditions)	09.09.2025	12.09.2025

DIPR/CP/2624/SA/2025-26 **Sd/- Director (Finance)**

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur, Belagavi - 591302.

No: KNNL/KPD/KNP/PB/TND/2025-26/1023 Dated: 02-09-2025

SHORT TERM PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP-Portal Only)

Percentage tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur on behalf of Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Bengaluru for below works from eligible KPWD registered Contractors through KPP-Portal (Two Cover System).

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Exclusive of GST) (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Development of Roads related to Irrigation Project at Chandur, Khanagaon BK and Marihal Villages in Belagavi Taluka under Belagavi Rural Constituency. **(KNNL/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 3100/Call-2)**	254.011

Category / Class of Contractors: Class-II and Above (KPWD)

1) Details and Tender documents may be downloaded through Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/index.seam** and filled bids may be submitted through KPP-Portal is **on 12-09-2025 till 4.00 PM. 2)** The Pre-Bid Meeting will be held in the **Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur on 08-09-2025 at 11.00 AM. 3)** Technical bid will be Opened on **15-09-2025 at 11.00 AM. 4)** For further details such as, EMD amount, time limit, cost of tender form, eligibility for work, terms and conditions of tender visit our Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the **EE, KPD, Khanapur** during office hours on any working day **(Office Telephone No. 08336-222163).**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, Kalasa Project Division,
Khanapur, Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/947/Adverto/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹುಣಸೂರು
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 571105, ದೂ: 08222–252048
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ka.hunsur.cmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಹುನಕಾ/ಜೆಇ/03/15ನೇ ಹ.ಕಾ.ಯೋ.ಉಳಿತಾಯ/ಟೆಂ–01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.08.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)

ಹುಣಸೂರು ನಗರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಹಾಗೂ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಾಲ್ತಿ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ KW-1ರ KW-2ರ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಅನ್ವಯ ಹಾಗೂ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ 2000ರ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತು, ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜನ್ನು ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ : **1)** DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT48492, **02)** INDENT 48444, **3)** INDENT48533, **4)** INDENT48446, **5)**INDENT48535, **6)** INDENT48493, **7)**INDENT47516, **8)**INDENT47520, **9)** INDENT47521, **10)** INDENT47522 **11)** INDENT47575, **12)**INDENT47518, **13)** INDENT-SE5254/CALL-4, **14)** INDENT-SE 6052, **15)** INDENT-SE5988, **16)**INDENT-IND5209 ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ, ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕಡೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.09.2025 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹುಣಸೂರು

ಸಹಿ/–
ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹುಣಸೂರು

ಸಹಿ/–
ಸ್ಥಾಯಿಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹುಣಸೂರು

ಸಹಿ/–
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ
ಹುಣಸೂರು

DIPR/MYS/899/SA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.4, ನವಲಗುಂದ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08380–229248, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08380–229017
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: knnl.mrbcc4@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ಮಬದ–4/ಪಿ.ಬಿ/ಜೆ.ಇ/2025–26/570 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–09–2025

ಕೋಟೆಷನ್ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.4, ನವಲಗುಂದ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸನಗುಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೋಟೆಷನ್ ದರವನ್ನು ಅಂದಾಜು ಪಟ್ಟಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ಮಾತ್ರ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Sl. No.	Item Description	Unit	Rate Per Unit (Rs.)
1	Conducting Dynamic Pile load test for 600mm dia, Pile as per ASTM 4945 Section 08.	No	
2	Detailed Videography / Drone view of Ch-53 to 148 Km of Bennihalla i.e before commencing of work while work under progress and after completion of work including submitting of videography in required format. (Total Three Times)	Per Km	
3	Printing of Photos (MR)	Per Photo	
4	Conveyance Allowance Charges (1 vehicles, 365 days)	Per Km	

Note: G.S.T. shall be mentioned Separately.

ದರವನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **11–09–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.4, ನವಲಗುಂದ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9663137692** ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **knnl.mrbcc4@gmail.com** ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.4 ನವಲಗುಂದ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಧಾರವಾಡ/622/ಆಡ್ಮಿರ್ಸ್/2025–26

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:26:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:30–08–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್ (2.0)–01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, ಒಟ್ಟು 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ 01ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ:– ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 02–09–2025. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 20–09–2025 ಸಮಯ : 16.00. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 20–09–2025 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–09–2025 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/307/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITAION DEPARTEMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA .
Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com

Tender Notification No: EE/RDWS&SD/CTA/JJM/Tender/ /2025-26/344 Date: 02.09.2025

Tender Notification
Through e-procurement

Tender has been invited from eligible contractors for the following works Under Various Schemes in Single and Two cover system through kppp-procurement. (1) AMC of District and Taluk level Chemical labs (Rs. 3.75 Lakhs), (2) Supply and installation of spectrophotometer to District Lab (Rs. 4.18 Lakhs) (3) Instalation of WPPs at M.G. Dibba, Doddathekalavatti and Devapura Govt. Schools at Hosadurga Taluk (Rs. 5.40 Lakhs) (4) Supply and installation of equipments to MRF Unit at Burujinaroppa village Hiriyur Taluk (Rs. 58.00 Lakhs) and (5) Providing FHTCs at A. Krishnappanagara (Rs. 25.25 Lakhs) and, (6) Providing FHTCs at Kodihalli L.hatti and J.R. Badavane (Rs. 79.40 Lakhs) Eligible tenders may obtain the details and tender documents and submitted the filled tender online through website view.http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last Date for Receipt of Bids Dt: 15.09.2025, Technical Bid Opening 16.09.2025 and Financial Bid Opening 17.09.2025 For Further details Office of Executive Engineer and also through e-port web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/323/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDWS&S Division, Chitradurga

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No.1 Sakaleshpur - 573134 Ph: 08173-244454, e-mail: eeypdn1@gmail.com

Corrigendum Notification No: EE/YP/VJNL/DIV-01/TN/06(1)/2025-26/675 Dated: 02.09.2025

Tender Notification No: EE/YP/VJNL/DIV-01/TN/06/2025-26/336 Dated: 14.08.2025 PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM) (Only through kppp portal system)

"Percentage" tenders through kppp portal for 27 works are invited by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, YP Division, No.1,Sakaleshapura on behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Ltd., Registered office, Bangalore from thePWD registered eligible contractors who fulfil the pre-qualification conditions as per the published bid documents for the work. The amount put to tender varies from Rs. 21.98 Lakhs to Rs. 254.12 Lakhs. Out of 27 works, Sl No. 01 to 09 reserved for Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe/Category-2A/Category-1 contractors. The contractors can download and submit the completed bid documents for as per the Calendar of events mentioned below. The Corrigendum Notification now as per below

Sl No	Due to technical reason Date has been changed for Sl No of works as per Tender Notification	As per Tender Notification No: EE/YP/VJNL/DIV-01/TN/06/2025-26/336 Dated: 14.08.2025 The bidder can access & download the tender documents	Last date of Submission of completed Tender Documents to be read as	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid to be read as
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	01 to 25	18.08.2025 to 02.09.2025, up to 5.30 pm and technical bid opening Date 04.09.2025 11.00 am	08.09.2025, 5.30 pm	10.09.2025, 11.00 Am

The technical bid (Cover-I) will be opened at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No.1, Sakaleshapura through kppp portal. Details such as Amount put to tender/EMD amount/Qualification of bidders/ Tender Conditions etc can be obtained through kppp portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home. Financial bids will be opened after Technical bid approval or on the date specified in the kppp portal, whichever is later. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not be bound to accept the lowest tender. Corrigendum/addendum will be published in the kppp portal for all modifications or corrections if any. Any further information required may be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, VJNL, YP Division, No.1, Sakaleshpura

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಡಾಸನ/516/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Government of Karnataka
Office of the, Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari

No.PWD/EE/Bly/TS-4/2025-26/2912 Date : 01-09-2025.

Tender Corrigendum Notification

Sub : Tender corrigendum for the work invited for tender under 3054-(Non-Plan)-Maintenance of State Highways and Major District Roads.

Ref : This office tender notification No.PWD/EE/TS-4/2851/2025-26 dated 28-08-2025.

The tenderers are requested to note that, due to technical reasons, the indent number of the following works, invited for tender under this office notification cited above have been changed. Other conditions remain unaltered. If any, will be notified separately. **TABLE**

Sl No	Indent number notified earlier	Changed indent Number	Reservation Deatils
	3054-(Non-Plan)-Maintenance of State Highways :		
1)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25071	PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT14134	General
	3054-(Non-Plan)-Maintenance of Major District Roads :		
2)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25049	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT26910	General
3)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25062	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT26919	Category-II(A)

DIPR/Ballari/428/KSMCA/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

Supreme Court orders policy for foreigners released on bail

Move meant to ensure foreigners committing crimes in India don't 'flee from justice'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has emphasised the need for a policy to ensure foreign nationals committing crimes in the country don't "flee from justice", expressing displeasure after being apprised that a foreign national accused in a cheating case jumped bail and was on the run.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih asked the Central government to mull framing a policy for foreigners who jump bail.

In a case, the court noted that Nigerian national Alex David — accused of various offences, including cheating and under the Information Technology Act — jumped bail, which the Jharkhand High Court granted him in May 2022, and went absconding.

Serious concern

The court also expressed serious concern over there being no Nigeria-India treaty for the extradition of a Nigerian to face criminal proceedings in India.

The state government challenged the HC order in the top court, and then it came on record that David had allegedly fled India.

The apex court, on December 4, 2024, set aside the HC's bail order and directed the Central government to take appropriate measures.

It, however, left it open to the Central government to formulate an appropriate policy or initiate such further action as deemed necessary and proper so that foreign nationals did not flee the course of justice after committing crimes in India.

Subsequently, the Central government filed an affidavit, informing the court about the presence of comprehensive guidelines for investigation abroad and the issue of letters rogatory, mutual legal assistance requests, and service of summons, notices, and judicial documents with respect to criminal matters.

On August 26, the counsel appearing for the Central government placed before the bench a communication addressed to the solicitor general by the Ministry of External Affairs' legal consultant.

The bench recorded the content of the communication, which read, "However, it may be noted that in the absence of a bilateral extradition treaty between India and Nigeria, the Nigerian authorities are unlikely to extradite their own national."

The communication further clarified that the extradition request was sent to the High Commission of India in Abuja, Nigeria, based on an "assurance of reciprocity" for the onward transmission to the Nigerian authorities concerned.

Bihar BJP targets 39 seats it won or lost by thin margins

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With the RJD-Congress combine amping up its poll push in Bihar, the BJP got into a huddle on Wednesday evening, with Union Home Minister and the saffron party's key electoral strategist Amit Shah meeting its state-unit leaders to draw up a strategy.

In focus, said leaders part of the meeting, was a plan to highlight the insult to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother and a push in 39 seats where the margins for the BJP were wafer-thin in the last Assembly elections.

Seat distribution was also discussed, but leaders said a lot more needed to be decided upon.

Shah met leaders of the core committee, including Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, state president Dilip Jaiswal, and Vinod Tawde.

While ticket distribution was discussed, nothing was finalised since some of the seats might be redistributed among NDA partners.

The BJP's key focus would be 39 seats where its win or loss margin was less than 10,000 votes. In the last Assembly elections in 2020, the BJP's win margin was less than 10,000 votes in at least 21 seats.

In seats like Arrah, Barhara, Munger, Begusarai, Badhwar, Hajipur, Amnour, Pranpur and Parihar, its win margin was below 5,000 votes. Similarly, in 18 seats, its loss margin was around 10,000 votes. Among these seats, the margin was less than 5,000 in nine.

Leaders said the primary focus of the BJP would be to retain the 21 they won by small margins, while also winning the 18 they lost in close contests.

The party was also preparing to go full steam on the issue of the insult to the PM's mother. The state unit's Mahila Morcha has already called a statewide bandh on Thursday. Similar protests are in the pipeline, said leaders.

"The insult to the PM's mother has touched a nerve, especially among the state's women voters who have always stood by the him," said a state-unit leader.

The party has seen the issue as a valid counter to the "voter chori" walkathon of Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav.

Apex court lays down rules for pre-arrest bail under SC/ST Act

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court has said that there is a bar on anticipatory bail for an accused under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act — often mentioned as the SC/ST Act.

However, it stated, the court could exercise its discretion to grant pre-arrest bail if the accusations relating to such offences lacked prima facie merit.

Setting aside anticipatory bail to an accused, a three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai said non-making of a prima facie case was a situation where the court could arrive at such a conclusion by way of the first impression upon the very reading of the averments in the FIR.

In such cases, the bench clarified that it would not be permissible for the court to go into the evidentiary realm or consider other materials, nor conduct a mini-trial.

"The provision of Section 18 and the bar created thereunder has to be seen in the context of the object with which the Parliament enacted the SC/SC Act, 1989," the bench said, pointing out that the law was introduced to improve the socio-economic conditions of SCs and STs. "The underlying idea is to ensure that persons belonging to these classes are not denied their civil rights, are not subjected to indignities and are insulated from humiliation and harassment," said the bench. The court felt Section 18 furthered that very objective.

No GST on life and health insurance premiums from September 22

Move to boost coverage and ease burden on households

NEW DELHI, PTI

Life insurance and health insurance premiums would come down as such products are now exempt from Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Announcing the outcome of the 56th GST Council meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said that all individual life insurance policies whether term life, ULIP or endowment policies and subsequent reinsurance are exempt from GST.

All individual health insurance policies including family floater policies and policies for senior citizens and reinsurance thereof will also be exempt from GST, she said.

Since its inception in July 2017, GST at the rate of 18% levied on the premium paid towards health insurance and life insurance.

"We will make sure that companies pass on GST rate reduction and make insurance affordable for the common man and increase the insurance coverage in the country," she said.

She further said that the new rates would be effective from September 22, the first day of Navaratri.

The government has collected Rs 16,398 crore from Goods and Services Tax (GST) levied on healthcare and life insurance in FY24.

Of this, Rs 8,135 crore came from life insurance and Rs 8,263 crore from health insurance. Additionally, Rs 2,045 crore was also raised as GST from re-insurance on life and health insurance last fiscal, including Rs 561 crore from reinsurance on life and Rs 1,484 crore on health care.

GST on healthcare and life insurance services brought in Rs 16,770 crore in FY23, including Rs 9,132 crore from life insurance and Rs 7,638 crore from healthcare insurance.

The 56th GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister and comprising ministers from all states, has agreed on two tax rates of 5 and 18% by moving products from the current 12 and 28% slab to lower rates.

A special 40% rate would be levied on a select few items.

A 4-tier GST structure of 5, 12, 18 and 28% was implemented from July 1, 2017, when the Centre and states agreed to subsume most of their taxes, like excise duty and VAT, into one uniform tax.

WHAT THEY SAID

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS

"A victory for common people. A victory wrested from a tone-deaf regime that only listens when forced. From day one, Smt.@MamataOfficial warned the Finance Minister that taxing insurance premiums was cruel, anti-people, and would deter families from securing their future, leaving them vulnerable to financial ruin in times of crisis.

P CHIDAMBARAM
Rajya Sabha MP

"The GST rationalisation and the reduction in rates on a range of goods and services are WELCOME but 8 years TOO LATE. The current design of GST and the rates prevailing until today ought not to have been introduced in the first place. We have been crying hoarse for the last 8 years against the design and rates of GST, but our pleas fell on deaf years.

ARVIND SHRIVASTAVA
Revenue Secretary

"The financial implication of the rate rationalisation would be Rs 48,000 crore and this would be "fiscally sustainable for Centre and state. Revenue implication is a dynamic number which will keep changing depending on changes in consumption. Rate rationalisation results in buoyancy. We also expect compliance to improve.

ANISH SHAH
Mahindra Group CEO

"The next-generation GST reforms announced today mark a defining moment in India's journey towards building a simpler, fairer, and more inclusive tax system.

AJAY SAHAI
FIEO Director General

"The commitment to process refunds within seven days is a step in the right direction and will greatly ease liquidity stress on exporters. We look forward to continued collaboration with the government in ensuring smooth execution of these measures on the ground.

GST reforms to improve lives of citizens: PM

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that wide-ranging reforms approved by the GST Council will improve the lives of citizens and ensure ease of doing business for all, especially small traders and businesses.

Narendra Modi

In a post on X, he said the Union government had prepared a detailed proposal for broad-based GST rate rationalisation and process reforms, aimed at ease of living for the common man and strengthening the economy.

He added, "Glad to state that the GST Council, comprising the Union and the States, has collectively agreed to the proposals submitted by the Union Government on GST rate cuts and reforms, which will benefit the common man, farmers, MSMEs, the middle class, women, and youth."

Modi noted that he had spoken about his government's intention to bring the next-generation reforms in GST during his Independence Day speech.

The GST Council on Wednesday approved a two-tier rate structure of 5 and 18 per cent, which will be implemented from September 22.

Explore whether NDA can be expanded, Shah tells TN BJP

CHENNAI, DHNS: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has asked the Tamil Nadu BJP unit to explore the options to expand the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the state by inducting small parties, besides telling party leaders to work united by shedding personal differences.

In a hurriedly convened meeting in New Delhi, which was skipped by former state unit chief K Annamalai, Shah also asked BJP leaders to maintain a cordial relationship with leaders of the AIADMK, its senior partner in Tamil Nadu.

The meeting, in which BJP president J P Nadda was also present, saw the participation of TN unit chief Nainar Nagenthiran and former state chief Tamilisai Soundararajan, among others. The meeting assumes significance as it comes close on the heels of speculation that the NDA was drifting apart in Tamil Nadu after T T V Dhinakaran decided to walk out of the alliance—already, O Panneerselvam has quit the NDA.

It is also understood that Annamalai, who told reporters that he didn't attend the meeting due to his prior engagements, has told the high command that he doesn't want to contest the 2026 elections. He has been opposed to the alliance with the AIADMK, but under pressure from the party leadership, he recently endorsed Palaniswami's leadership, and said it was the NDA's responsibility to ensure that the latter assumes charge as CM in 2026.

India asks Germany to send back baby Ariha

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Wednesday called upon Germany to ensure the early return of Indian baby girl Ariha Shah, who has been living in a foster care in Berlin for nearly four years.

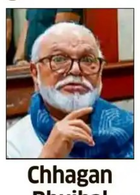
The issue was raised by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during talks with his German counterpart Johann Wadephul.

"I raised the issue of Ariha Shah, an Indian child who has been in a foster care of German authorities for some time. I underlined to the minister that it is essential that her cultural rights are ensured and she grows up in Indian surroundings," Jaishankar said at a joint media briefing with Wadephul.

"This matter needs to be resolved without delay," he said. The German authorities had taken custody of Ariha Shah on September 23, 2021, when she was seven months old, alleging that parents harassed her.

Maratha reservation row deepens; Bhujbal boycotts Cabinet meeting

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Marathas-Other Backward Class (OBC) reservation issue in Maharashtra has led to fissures in the Maha Yuti government. It came out in the open when veteran politician, OBC leader, and state minister Chhagan Bhujbal boycotted the weekly Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.



Chhagan Bhujbal

In a related development, the Maharashtra government has formed a Cabinet subcommittee to expedite socio-economic and educational welfare measures for OBCs.

The subcommittee, comprising nine members, is headed by Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule of the BJP. Bhujbal is also a member of the subcommittee.

The development comes a day after the BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP government agreed to the demands of Manoj Jarange-Patil and implement the Hyderabad Gazetteer, which accepts Marathas as Kunbis for the Marathwada region, enabling them reservation under the OBC category, besides agreeing on a two-month time frame to examine legal issues for a similar blanket order across the state.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, however, has not commented on the issue so far.

Bhujbal attended the NCP's pre-Cabinet meeting, presided over by Deputy Chief Minister and the regional party's chief Ajit Pawar. Later, he was seen walking out of the Sahyadri Guest House at Malabar Hill.

After the Cabinet meeting, the NCP leadership met at Pawar's official bungalow Deogiri. Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde said: "We will speak to him, the CM will speak to him... I hope we will be able to convince him."

Bhujbal said that injustice had been meted out to the OBCs by granting Marathas reservation benefits.

"Our organisations, leaders, and workers have protested after the government's decision. We will move court against the government order," he said.

He appealed to OBC-community members to withdraw agitations in Nagpur and Antarwali Sarathi in the Jalna district and break the hunger strike. "The protests should be limited only to the submission of memorandums," he said.

The 77-year-old Bhujbal, who hails from the Mali-OBC community, is the founder-president of All India Mahatma Phule Samata Parishad.

Reacting to the development, Jarange-Patil said: "That Bhujbal is unhappy means that the GR (government resolution) is good."

Meanwhile, several OBC leaders expressed reservations about the government's decision, with Laxman Hake, who heads the OBC Sangharsh Sena, calling it "anti-constitutional and anti-people".

Dhinakaran-led AMMK walks out of NDA in TN

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), led by T T V Dhinakaran, on Wednesday announced its decision to walk out of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Tamil Nadu after it became increasingly clear that the senior partner AIADMK was unwilling to accommodate the party.

Dhinakaran's move is yet another setback to the NDA following another ally, O Panneerselvam, who also exited the combine in July after being cold-shouldered by the BJP at the behest of AIADMK and its general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami.

"We have decided to walk out of the NDA. We will announce our stand vis-à-vis the alliance in December," Dhinakaran told reporters in Cuddalore district. His announcement came hours after Home Minister Amit Shah told TN BJP leaders to explore options to include more parties in the NDA.

T T V Dhinakaran. PTI FILE

The AMMK leader did not mince words when he said Shah's efforts to unite all anti-DMK forces under one roof to take on the ruling party in the 2026 elections have failed.

"We thought he (Palaniswami) would reform himself or be reformed (by the BJP), but nothing happened. Rather, what we saw in the past two months is an open display of arrogance (by Palaniswami). He is a betrayer... We thought all supporters of Amma (J Jayalalithaa) should join hands to defeat the DMK. But I think they don't want us," Dhinakaran added.

"This decision isn't knee-jerk. It is a well-thought-out decision. When we are not respected and when we are not needed in a place, we have to chart our own path, and that's what we have done today," he added.

A senior AMMK leader told *DH* that reconciliation cannot be ruled out if the BJP steps in and convinces Palaniswami to accept AMMK and OPS. "We will wait till December. If we don't get any positive response, we might launch negotiations with actor Vijay. But as we speak, we have not touched base with Vijay," the leader added.

Dhinakaran and OPS believe that the AIADMK and BJP will need their support to win seats in southern Tamil Nadu, especially in constituencies dominated by Mukulathors, an OBC community to which they belong.

Impure, insincere politics: Tejashwi on PM's outburst on abuse row

PATNA, PTI: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Wednesday termed the emotional outburst of Prime Minister Narendra Modi a day ago over alleged abuses hurled at him during the recent 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar as "impure and insincere politics".

Yadav, the leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, alleged that BJP MLAs have "hurled choicest abuses" at him and his party colleagues on the floor of the House. He also slammed the BJP-led NDA for calling a five-hour Bihar bandh on Thursday over alleged abuses.

"After that unfortunate incident, the PM had gone abroad. We have seen pictures and photos of him smiling and laughing with foreign dignitaries. But as soon as he returned home, he decided it was time to weep," Yadav claimed.

After 17 years, Arun Gawli walks free on SC bail

Arun Gawli arrives at the Nagpur airport following his release on Wednesday. PTI

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A week after the Supreme Court granted him bail in a 2007 murder case, gangster-turned-politician Arun Gawli walked out of Nagpur Central Jail on Wednesday. The 76-year-old was released after spending more than 17 years behind bars.

Gawli, founder of the Akhil Bharatiya Sena (ABS), served as an MLA from 2004 to 2009, representing the Chinchpokli constituency in Mumbai.

Popularly known as 'Daddy', Gawli had been serving a life sentence for the murder of Shiv Sena corporator Kamlakar Jamsandekar (46), who was shot dead on March 2, 2007, inside his residence-cum-office in Asalpha village, located in the Saki Naka area of Mumbai.

The murder was initially suspected to be linked to a property dispute, and it took the police over a year to crack the case.

Gawli was booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code as well as the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). He was convicted by a special MCOCA court in 2012.

Last week, the SC granted him bail after being informed of the prolonged delay in hearing his appeals.

In his petition, Gawli argued that the state's refusal to grant him premature release was arbitrary and unjust. He cited a 2006 Maharashtra government notification, which entitles a convict to be released after completing 14 years of imprisonment and attaining the age of 65. However, his application was previously rejected on the grounds that the state had issued a fresh notification in 2015 — an amendment to the Maharashtra Prisons (Review of Sentences) Rules, 1972.

The SC, while granting bail, observed, "Taking into consideration that the appellant has been incarcerated for a period of almost 18 years, we are inclined to grant him bail."

The Maharashtra government had opposed the bail plea, arguing that Gawli faced 46 criminal cases, including around 10 related to murder.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Gawli operated a crime syndicate parallel to Dawood Ibrahim's D-Company. Following his conviction in the 2007 murder case, he was granted parole and furlough on a few occasions.

Assam groups oppose MHA order on citizenship

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Several organisations in Assam, including the influential All Assam Students' Union (AASU), on Wednesday opposed the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) order that seeks to allow non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who entered India before December 2024 to stay without a visa. They have demanded that Assam be exempted from the directive.

AASU president Utpal Sarma said that extending the cut-off for citizenship to non-Muslim migrants would deal yet another blow to the indigenous people of Assam, who are already grappling with an identity crisis due to the longstanding issue of illegal migration from neighbouring Bangladesh.

"When the Citizenship (Amendment) Act was passed in 2019, we voiced our concern that the Centre might extend the cut-off date for granting citizenship to non-Muslim migrants. The new order has confirmed our worst fears. The indigenous people of Assam will never accept the CAA and will take to the streets in protest," said Sarma.

He added that the CAA and the extension of the cut-off date to 2024 violate the Assam Accord of 1985, which had set March 24, 1971, as the deadline for the detection and deportation of foreigners.

"The Northeast and Bengal will bear the maximum brunt, as the borders remain open. More minorities from Bangladesh, who continue to face harassment, are likely to migrate into Assam and Bengal," said Lurinjyoti Gogoi, president of the Asom Jatiya Parishad, an anti-CAA Opposition party.

DECCAN HERALD
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Floods and falling resilience

Floods, landslides, cloudbursts, and other natural calamities have ravaged large parts of North and North-Western India over the last few weeks. Punjab is witnessing massive floods that have hit hundreds of villages and towns. At least 30 people have died and assets worth hundreds of crores of rupees have been lost. Homes have been destroyed, crops washed away, and roads and bridges have been damaged. Most rivers, including Ravi and Beas, are in spate and dams are overflowing. A fierce monsoon is still lashing the state and the region. The early part of the monsoon was beneficial for the state and the paddy crops, sown then, were expected to yield a good harvest. But the floods have destroyed thousands of acres of crops.

Haryana has also been affected, though not as badly as Punjab. Many of its villages, roads, and other assets have been hit. Himachal Pradesh has seen landslides, cloudbursts, and other disasters in the past few weeks. Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir have been similarly affected. The Yamuna is rising and Delhi is under a constant flood threat. Many people have been displaced across the states. Economies that largely depend on tourism, agriculture, and small businesses are disrupted. Rescue and relief operations are ongoing in Punjab and rehabilitation and recovery efforts are continuing in other states. Politics, as usual, gets in the way and a blame game is on between the affected states ruled by the Opposition parties and the Centre. States including Punjab have sought from the Centre financial packages for relief, reconstruction, and rehabilitation. This is the time to look past political interests and prioritise aid to help the affected rebuild their lives.

Response gaps point to a history of flawed approaches and misplaced developmental priorities

The frequency and intensity of these disasters present a compelling case for the administrators to switch to a preventive approach. For decades, planning has failed to adapt in accordance with the natural features and the specific needs of regions. The infrastructure developed and promoted for religious tourism in Uttarakhand points to policies misaligned with the environmental frailties of the region. The affected states are part of the vulnerable Himalayan and sub-Himalayan ecosystems. Land-use and water management plans have traditionally done harm to the environment. Deforestation and encroachment of forests, destruction of rivers and water bodies, and blocking of the natural courses of water have all led to the spate of disasters the region is witnessing now. The impact of climate change is known and has been deliberated on extensively but action on the ground has remained woefully inadequate.

Growth up, tariff headwinds ahead

The growth of the economy at 7.8% in the first quarter of the ongoing financial year was unexpected. The rate is higher than the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s projection of 6.5% and the best estimates of most of the experts. The Gross Value Added (GVA) also registered a 7.6% growth, much higher than the 2.7% during the same period last year. There was a statistical push for the high growth rate because of an inflation adjustment, but the growth is still real and the highest among major economies. The nominal GDP growth was 8.8% which was the lowest in three quarters and much less than the 9.7% in the first quarter of the last year.

The outlook for growth is not as robust as the figures indicate because the first quarter cannot be taken as setting a trend for the rest of the year and beyond. Disaggregated data shows that agriculture grew at a healthy 3.7% and contributed well to the economy's performance. A good monsoon has pushed up kharif cultivation, which bodes well for the sector and for rural consumption. However, the possible impact of the adverse weather in Punjab and Haryana is not yet known. The manufacturing sector grew at 7.7%. Consumption, buoyed by the recent cuts in income tax and other government policies, went up by 7%. Improvement in the services sector is notable and an indication of enhanced returns in areas such as trade, transport, finance, and real estate. The sector saw a growth of 9.3%, much higher than the 6.8% in the same quarter last year, and the 7.3% in the preceding quarter. The restructuring of GST slabs may further encourage growth in consumption. Investment activity has been promising and government spending showed an increase from the same quarter last year.

The Q1 growth has defied expectations but the threat of tariff-induced reverses is real

The economy will, however, face serious challenges in the coming months. The 50% tariff enforced by the United States will cause serious disruption to sectors such as textiles. These are labour-intensive manufacturing sectors and the connected livelihoods will be vulnerable to a large-scale impact. It will take time to identify alternative markets and to recover from the fallout since the tariff war has disrupted the global economy. While the lower tax rates and GST rationalisation may spur consumption, they are likely to result in lower revenue growth. The government will not only have to back the consumption push but also support those who will be adversely affected by the fall in growth.

EMPOWERED, ON PAPER

When the city crumbles, who will help the disabled?

Red tape, lack of accountability, and paltry budgets leave disability access on the margins of policy

ANCHAL BHATHEJA

When the rains came to Delhi this August, so did disaster. Water entered homes. Unstable walls collapsed, killing children in slums. Cars were submerged. Traffic jams stretched for hours, with people stranded for six to eight hours on flooded roads. Roads cracked open, metro stations leaked, and electric poles sparked dangerously in residential lanes.

This is the monsoon experience for the able-bodied. Now, consider the same city from the eyes of a person with a disability (PwD). "I'm at your location," the cab driver says. "But the road is flooded. If you're blind and might slip, that's your problem. Come on your own." This isn't fiction. It is a common reality for thousands of persons with disabilities across Indian cities, especially during monsoon. The real question is: why are our roads, footpaths, and public infrastructure still designed to exclude them?

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is responsible for maintaining over 12,700 km of city roads. Yet, its budgetary priorities unequivocally clarify accessibility is not considered an essential public service.

Even as internal roads crumble during rain, with potholes turning into death traps, MCD continues to operate on tight funds. Much of its budget goes towards salaries and debt servicing, leaving almost nothing for meaningful investment in accessible public infrastructure. The Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojna and ward-level funds under the MLALAD scheme are plagued by slow approvals, bureaucratic delays, and piecemeal repairs that wash away by the next downpour.

Nowhere in these schemes is there a provision that mandates disability access – no requirement for tactile paths, no auditory signals, no curb ramps or protected crossings. There is no earmarked line item for accessibility, and no trained personnel within MCD tasked with ensuring compliance. Footpaths, where they exist, are either encroached, broken, flooded, or entirely absent. For a wheelchair user or visually impaired commuter, they may as well be barricades.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) functions as the nodal agency for disability policy in India, and has issued the Harmonised Guidelines 2021 under Sections 40 and 44 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPWDA). These guidelines cover tactile paving, curb ramps, accessible parking, signage, lighting, and maintenance protocols – across roads, buildings, parks, and transport hubs.

But DEPwD's role remains confined to policy formulation. The department cannot direct MCD, PWD, CPWD, DDA, or NDMC to implement these norms. It cannot block inaccessible projects or withhold funds. It does not issue building permits or sanction road work. It also lacks adequate staffing or financial muscle – receiving less than 0.03% of the Union Budget.

DEPwD's budget is a fraction of what is required. For 2025-26, the allocation to the department is approximately Rs 1,275 crore, which constitutes just 0.025% of the Union Budget. The department's limited financial and administrative capacity makes it impossible to drive nationwide accessibility reforms without robust collaboration, budget mainstreaming, and political will across infrastructure sectors.

Accessibility, therefore, remains siloed. Even though Section 44 of the RPWDA prohibits building approvals or occupancy certificates unless projects comply with accessibility norms, most infrastructure in Delhi continues to ignore these mandates. The problem is not a lack of standards. It is that no one is legally or institutionally accountable to enforce them.

Mainstreaming accessibility

Accessibility must move from the margins of welfare policy into the heart of urban planning and infrastructure development. It cannot remain the sole responsibility of DEPwD or a provision hidden in the RPWDA. It must be integrated into mainstream schemes like the Smart Cities Mission, urban transport planning, municipal budgeting, and infrastructure contracts.

MCD and other civic bodies must urgently update their building bye-laws and road design manuals to align with the Harmonised Guidelines 2021. Without this, infrastructure will continue to be built in technical violation of national law. A dedicated budgetary allocation for accessibility must be created under each department responsible for roads, footpaths, buildings, or public transport. These cannot remain optional line items, or worse, unaccounted for entirely.

All public infrastructure projects must be subject to mandatory accessibility audits, conducted before approval and post-construction, with real consequences for non-compliance. These audits should involve people with disabilities and trained professionals. The Delhi government and its urban local bodies must, finally, publish the long-overdue Accessibility Action Plan, as required by Section 45(2) of the RPWDA.

A city-level nodal officer for accessibility must be appointed to coordinate between agencies, track implementation, and resolve jurisdictional conflicts. Without this, enforcement will continue to fall through bureaucratic cracks.

In S. Rajaseekaran v. Union of India & Ors, the Supreme Court of India, in May 2025, categorically held that the right to use unobstructed footpaths is part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. A bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan directed all states and Union Territories to create guidelines for pedestrian safety – specifically for persons with disabilities.

The law is clear. The guidelines exist. What we lack is political will and institutional accountability. Until that changes, the rains will continue to wash away not just roads, but the rights of millions.

(The writer is a research fellow – Disability Inclusion and Access, at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

In the hearts of my sweethearts...

'What merit is in a teacher, if we can't love all our students?'

SCHOLASTICA GOMES

I am a lecturer with 33 years of teaching experience. Recently, as I sat reminiscing about my student days, a memory of one of my college teachers returned vividly. She addressed every student as a "sweetheart".

Each time she called me a 'sweetheart', I used to feel overwhelmed. The word touched me so deeply that when I became a teacher myself, I too began addressing my own students as 'sweethearts'.

Over the years, as I nurtured, disciplined, and imparted knowledge with proficiency to my students, I also strove to be their friend, counsellor, and mentor -- instilling in them a sense of goodness, altruism, and compassion and leading them step by step towards holistic growth. The pulls and pressure I encountered from various stakeholders often weighed on me, sometimes restricting my attempts to shape their journeys as fully as I wished.

All teachers with nobility pour from their vessel only to see the growth of their students, to watch them blossom wherever life plants them – like the lotus that rises in the midst of slush and murky waters. I too emptied myself for their development and growth, though there were moments when I felt that teaching was simply a thankless job, with little reward and even less recognition.

But then, unexpectedly, a chance encounter would prove me wrong. Whenever I was in a public place, I was welcomed with familiar but forgotten faces by my alumni. I would suddenly hear a voice and turn to find a former student smiling in recognition. At a recent alumni meet, my belief that teaching was a thankless job with little reward was again proved wrong. The alumni testified to the influence each teacher had over their lives and considered all teachers as their second mothers. They fervently spoke about how, as teachers, we discovered their hidden talents, encouraged them to step onto a stage and perform – and how these opportunities had given them confidence and helped shape them into distinguished individuals.

Their words of profound gratitude washed away all lingering doubts. I realised then that being a teacher isn't a thankless job, but one filled with love and gratification. I had to teach students with diverse interests --some playful, some naughty, others studious, smart and austere, and endlessly curious. Even now, wherever I go, I seem to find all my sweethearts.

I often recall the words of St Francis of Assisi: "For it is in giving that we receive." How true this rings; it is for all us teachers who have sown in love, as we continue to live in the hearts and minds of our students. As Pope Francis said, 'What merit is in a teacher if we can't love all our students?'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Policymakers should prioritise women's health

This refers to 'Cancer cases among Bengaluru women one of the highest in India' (Sept 3). The findings are deeply concerning and point to a silent crisis unfolding in the city. Bengaluru, known as India's technology hub, must not become infamous for its rising cancer burden. The report underlines the disproportionate impact on women, which calls for urgent public health interventions. It is imperative that the government, healthcare institutions, and civic bodies work together to expand screening facilities, raise awareness about preventive measures, and make treatment more affordable and accessible. Moreover, lifestyle-related risk factors such as air pollution, food adulteration, and stress must be addressed through stronger regulations and community-level initiatives. Equally important is the need to ensure emotional and financial support systems for affected families, who often struggle silently. The timely coverage in *DH* should serve as a wake-up call for policymakers to prioritise women's health across Karnataka.
Nilanshu Kumar Pandey, Bengaluru

GBA not the solution

Apropos 'A vote for growth and autonomy' (Sept 3), the BBMP has largely been responsible for the mismanagement of the city and scarcity of civic infrastructure. Successive state governments have defied court directions to hold elections to the city corporation and municipalities, disregarding the 73rd and 74th amendments. Government officials have been administering civic amenities with no accountability. While the GBA model is expected to provide better services, restructuring of the city's administrative units is not the solution. Real political will and accountability in facilitating civic amenities, implementing the guidelines in the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) of the Constitution, and subsequent recommendations by the Balwant Rai Mehta and Ashok Mehta Committees, including constitutional amendments, could put the city's infrastructure on track.
Albert Smith, Bengaluru

Regulate fees

This is with reference to 'Fair? Parents debate school fees' (Sept 3). Education should not be monetised, but today it has become a means to profit rather than a source to empower the youth. Private schools that claim to provide "better quality education" are overcharging middle-class families. Steep fees may affect the quality of life of middleclass families. This should be a call to the government to regulate the fees of private schools.
Sampada Pai, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

It seems to me that if common sense prevails, it will be possible to agree on an acceptable solution to end this conflict...

Vladimir Putin, Russian President

Common sense, to most people, is nothing more than their own opinions.

William Hazlitt

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Hiring in the AI era

Greater objectivity is a big takeaway but adoption without oversight risks altering organisational values

KANAD BASU AND GOURAB MUKHERJEE

AI is not only changing the way companies hire people, but also transforming how students prepare to enter the workforce and how working professionals train to qualify for new opportunities. From resume-screening algorithms to video interview analysis tools, AI is reshaping the recruitment process at every stage. At the same time, students and job-seekers are increasingly using AI tools to tailor their skills, profiles, and interview strategies.

The adoption of AI has not only made large-scale hiring much more efficient for companies but has also helped level the playing field for job-seekers. On the employer side, AI-powered tools make it easier to reach wide talent pools through targeted digital advertisements and postings on professional platforms and community forums. On the job-seeker side, the market is now filled with AI-driven tools ranging from resume and cover letter editing services to online certification programmes for professional development and career guidance.

The AI surge has helped in introducing greater objectivity into the hiring process. AI-driven tools shift the focus from resumes, networking, and other peripheral factors that can lead to human biases to verifiable skills and measurable performance. This makes hiring more skill-based, data-driven, and potentially more equitable. While data-driven recruitment practices have been evolving for decades, AI integration has significantly expanded their reach by making it easier and cheaper to assess skills at scale via automated evaluation of the interview performance. Michael Lewis, in his book The Undoing Project, illustrates how translating subjective judgements into structured, quantifiable criteria can lead to better hiring decisions. By encouraging evaluators to rely on objective data rather than intuition or vague impressions, organisations can achieve more consistent and fair outcomes.

Despite its benefits, AI-based hiring presents significant risks, particularly regarding algorithmic fairness and data privacy. AI systems rely on training data, and if certain demographic groups are underrepresented, the resulting algorithms may produce biased or unfair outcomes – sometimes in ways humans might not anticipate. Additionally, the collection of extensive personal and biometric data raises serious concerns about data security and the potential misuse of sensitive information.

The human element

The growing reliance on AI-powered platforms to quantify interviewee skills, especially in technical interviews for entry-level positions, raises important questions. Many students are overwhelmed by the pressure to prepare through online portals offering coding exercises tailored to specific companies. These risks encouraging a narrow form of "over-fitting", where candidates invest disproportionate time and effort on a limited set of skills that may quickly become outdated.

Unfortunately, unlike standardised tests such as the GRE or TOEFL, these AI-driven assessments and online certification platforms have received little scrutiny through formal educational evaluation studies. Recently, the founders of Interview Coder reportedly used AI tools to complete coding-style technical interviews without detection, successfully securing top tech jobs. This raises concerns that an overreliance on AI in hiring is eroding the human element and reducing interviews to a race against machines – a race that AI itself may soon be better equipped to win. For fresh graduates entering the job market, these challenges are compounded by the rapid changes in hiring systems, an overwhelming abundance of tools and advice, and a lack of stability or consistency in what employers truly value.

In our discussions with experts, Prof. Ambar Sengupta, Head of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Connecticut, and Don Phin, Executive Coach and Employment Law Expert based in San Diego, both cautioned that without thoughtful design and governance, AI risks dehumanising hiring by reducing individuals to mere data points. They emphasised the importance of keeping humans involved to ensure that technology supports and strengthens human judgement rather than replacing it.

The hiring landscape is rapidly evolving. Over the past century, as we advanced from the mechanical age to the electrical, from the electrical to the digital, and now into the era of AI, both talent acquisition systems and the gatekeepers who shape them have undergone continual transformation. We are witnessing unprecedented changes in hiring systems, driven by AI's growing influence across nearly every stage of the recruitment process. Yet, this progress demands careful reflection.

Building hiring systems that are fair, sustainable, and human-centred requires empathetic design, robust oversight, and alignment with the long-term welfare of the workforce. The real risk is not merely occasional misjudgements by AI, but the more subtle danger that AI could systematically redefine what organisations value, who they recognise, and how they measure potential. Ultimately, AI in hiring is not just a technical challenge; it is a deeply human one, requiring ongoing oversight and ethical reflection.

(The writers are professors at the Department of Data Sciences and Operations, Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California)

Kaleshwaram probe: Less about dams, more about political games?

DATELINE Hyderabad

S N V SUDHIR

When Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced on the Assembly floor last Sunday that his government would hand over the probe into alleged irregularities in the Rs 1.10 lakh crore Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project -- built during the Bharat Rashtra Samithi regime -- to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the decision took both ruling party MLAs and opposition BRS members by surprise. The announcement drew immediate criticism, with opponents questioning how Revanth Reddy could seek the help of the same CBI that his party leader Rahul Gandhi has consistently accused of serving the interests of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Telangana BJP leaders had long demanded CBI investigations into multiple issues, including the Kaleshwaram project and alleged phone-tapping cases. Revanth Reddy's decision appears to meet at least one of these opposition demands, though it has also sparked intense political speculation.

Political circles are abuzz with theories about Revanth Reddy's motivations. Some analysts suggest he has inadvertently handed the BJP a golden opportunity to strike a 'strategic understanding' with the BRS before the next assembly elections as the CBI probe axe hangs on former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. The BJP has been successfully striking alliances with regional parties like TDP in Andhra Pradesh, AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, and JDS in Karnataka when unable to establish its own presence.

However, Congress insiders argue that Revanth Reddy has made a calculated move to corner the BJP. The key question now centres on whether the Centre will approve the probe. If the BJP-led union government refuses, it risks creating the perception of a secret BRS-BJP alliance, potentially strengthening Congress's campaign narrative. Conversely, approving the investigation could complicate the BJP's relationship with the BRS.

Under established procedure, when a state government requests a CBI investigation, it must issue a notification under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, followed by Central consent under Section 5. The Telangana government has already recommended the CBI inquiry based on the National Dam Safety Authority's report and formally written to the Union Home Ministry while issuing the consent under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act.

The Congress government's decision followed the submission of the Justice PC Ghose Commission report a few days ago.

The judicial commission's investigation into the Kaleshwaram project's three barrages at Medigadda, Sundilla, and Annaram revealed damning conclusions. The probe was initiated after the partial collapse of the Medigadda barrage just before the 2023 assembly elections prompted the incoming Congress government to order the investigation.

The commission held former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao "directly and vicariously accountable for irregularities and illegalities in planning, construction, completion, operation and maintenance of the three barrages." The report characterised KCR's involvement as the primary cause of irregularities and subsequent structural distress.

Significantly, the commission found "rank irregularity from the conceptualisation stage of the Kaleshwaram project until administrative approvals were issued on March 1, 2016." The report emphasised that decisions were made by individuals rather than through proper governmental processes, with the then-Chief Minister "predetermined and bent upon constructing a barrage at Medigadda at his free choice."

The commission documented how project costs spiralled dramatically. Initially conceived at Rs 38,500 crore, expenses escalated to Rs 71,436 crore and later reached over Rs 1,10,248.48 crore by March 2022 through revised administrative approvals.

The Kaleshwaram Irrigation Project Corporation Limited (KIPCL) secured loans totalling Rs 87,449.15 crore with state government guarantees. As of September 2024, Rs 29,737.06 crore had been paid toward principal and interest, leaving a balance of Rs 64,212.78 crore plus approximately Rs 41,638 crore in additional payable interest, a massive burden on the state budget.

The commission also found that former Finance Minister Etela Rajender provided false information to the Cabinet and recommended action against officials who gave false evidence during proceedings.

Interestingly, the CBI probe announcement triggered internal turmoil within the opposition BRS. Comments made by MLC Kavitha against her cousins, former Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao and former Rajya Sabha member Joginapally Santosh Rao, in the wake of the CBI probe into the Kaleshwaram project led to her suspension from the party founded by her father, K. Chandrashekar Rao. She subsequently resigned from the BRS.

While the state government has made a one-time relaxation allowing CBI jurisdiction for the Kaleshwaram probe, the controversial order barring CBI from exercising jurisdiction in Telangana remains in force for all other cases.

As political observers watch closely, the Union Home Ministry's response will be crucial. Rejecting the probe could strengthen perceptions of BRS-BJP collusion, while approval might force an uncomfortable investigation. For the BJP government, this decision carries significant political implications that extend beyond Telangana's borders.

The Kaleshwaram saga, initially intended as Telangana's lifeline, appears to have now become a symbol of governance failures and financial irregularities. Whether the CBI probe will deliver accountability or become another political chess piece remains to be seen.

DHNS

The parade, attended by the leaders of Russia and North Korea, had a defiant message. President Trump fired back, accusing Xi Jinping of ignoring US role in World War II

DAVID PIERSON

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Xi parades firepower to signal China won't be bullied again

China's leader, Xi Jinping, presided over a massive military parade in Beijing on Wednesday featuring fighter jets, missiles and goose-stepping troops as he issued a defiant warning to rivals not to challenge his country's sovereignty.

His message was underscored by the leaders gathered by his side in the viewing gallery, representing states that have challenged or questioned American dominance of the global order.

He was flanked by Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, along with the leaders of Iran, Pakistan and other mostly authoritarian nations.

Cannons fired 80 times to mark the anniversary of the end of World War II, as soldiers carried a Chinese flag and marched across a red carpet covering part of Tiananmen Square.

Crowds watching the parade waved small flags and saluted as the national anthem was played and the flag was raised. Later, pigeons and balloons—said to number 80,000 each—were released into the air.

The parade was the highlight of a weeks-long campaign by the ruling Communist Party to stoke nationalism, recast China's role in World War II and project the party as the nation's saviour against a foreign aggressor, Imperial Japan. The evoking of wartime memories serves to rally domestic Chinese support in the face of economic uncertainty and tensions with the United States, which Xi has accused of trying to contain and suppress China.

"The Chinese nation is a great nation that fears no tyranny and stands firm on its own feet," Xi declared from the rostrum of Tiananmen Gate, above a large portrait of Mao Zedong.

He drew a direct line between the sacrifices of World War II and the challenges that China says it faces today.

"When faced in the past with a life-and-death struggle between justice and evil, light and darkness, progress and reaction, the Chinese people united in hatred of the enemy and rose up in resistance," he said. He cast today's tensions as another fateful choice, between peace or war, dialogue or confrontation, and said China would side with progress.

The event was rich in symbolism tying the Communist Party of today with its revolutionary past. Senior Chinese leaders, past and present, gathered along with Xi, who wore a Mao-style suit, echoing the founding father of the People's Republic.

Later, Xi stood in the open sunroof of a Chinese-made Red Flag limousine — a car that evokes both Mao's era and China's ambition of industrial self-reliance—as he reviewed People's Liberation Army troops. He called out, "Greetings, comrades," and "Comrades, you are working hard!"

The troops turned their heads in perfect synchronicity as Xi's car passed them and responded in unison: "Follow the Party! Fight to win! Forge exemplary conduct!" To demonstrate their war readiness, soldiers holding guns jogged past tanks holding missiles and leaped into their vehicles.

The presence of Putin highlighted the way that China and Russia have sought to align their histories, each presenting World War II as proof of their countries' sacrifice and as justification for demanding a greater say in the postwar international order.

"For both Xi and Putin, victory was costly but incomplete. They believe that 'hegemonic forces' still want to impose a foreign model upon them and block their rightful place in the world," said Joseph Torigian, an associate professor at American University. "Now, they want to use the memory of the war to inoculate future generations against Western values and legitimate the global order they envision."

Xi's message did not go unanswered. Within minutes of the start of the ceremony, President Donald Trump weighed in from Washington, accusing Xi of ignoring America's role in helping China during the war.

On Truth Social, he wrote that the "big question" was whether Xi would "mention the massive amount of support and 'blood' that The United States of America gave to China in order to help it to secure its FREEDOM from a very unfriendly foreign invader."

Trump added: "Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against The United States of America."

The Kremlin pushed back against the accusation that the leaders were meeting to "conspire" against the United States. "Let's hope that it was meant in some figurative sense," Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesperson, told reporters. "No one is plotting any conspiracies—no one has the desire or the time for this."

Xi's parade was not just a commemoration of the past but, even more so, a message for the West about China's "unstoppable" rise.

It showcased new ship-destroying missiles, undersea drones and crewless combat planes that highlighted China's investments in military innovation, as China increasingly rivals the United States for military dominance of Asia.

Xi also issued an implicit warning to Taiwan and its international supporters of the perils of any move toward formal independence.

In his speech, Xi vowed to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and he said: "The Chinese People's Liberation Army has always been a heroic force on which the Party and the people can totally rely."

The guest list underscored how much the divide between Beijing and the West has deepened, particularly over China's close alignment with Russia in its war in Ukraine. Conspicuously absent were high-level representatives from major Western democracies, including the United States. But the leaders of many Southeast Asian and Central Asian nations attended the parade, showing China's success in strengthening regional partnerships.

"Xi is driven to gain acceptance of China as a central global power and to revise the international system to better suit China's preferences," said Ryan Hass, director of the John L Thornton China Centre at the Brookings Institution. "He views the presence of other leaders at his parade as validating progress toward his goals."

The show of strength was matched by extraordinary security. Many roads were closed ahead of time, with countless security guards stationed around Beijing. Journalists had been told to assemble at a site shortly before 3 am for equipment checks before being led to Tiananmen Square three hours before the start of the parade.

For days, volunteers wearing red armbands had been stationed across the city to watch for potential disturbances. Neighbourhood workers hung Chinese flags outside every household in the hutongs — historic narrow alleyways in Beijing's center — and sent messages to residents reminding them to guard against anything that could disrupt the event or cause bad news.

"During this important event, we encourage everybody to watch the military parade from home, to take concrete actions to cheer on our country and celebrate the momentous occasion," one message read. "Avoid crowded places to reduce the risks of gathering."

The New York Times

High fees and the cost of a broken system

PRAKASH NEDUNGADI

'All I want is a better education and life for my two children. For that, I'm willing to sacrifice everything!' This is the answer I often hear from parents in my ward in Bengaluru when I ask why they borrow, plead and sometimes resort to desperate measures to pay school fees.

The just-released Government of India's National Sample Survey (NSS), Comprehensive Modular Survey-Education, June 2025, shows the scale of the problem in Karnataka, particularly in urban areas.

The first finding is that parents in urban Karnataka have almost given up on government schools. Nearly four in five children (79%) in urban Karnataka study in private schools. This is significantly above the national average of 70% and almost double the figure for Delhi, where only two in five children (42%) go to private schools.

In rural Karnataka, government schools still serve 71% of children, but largely because there is little choice -- a subject for another grim story.

Secondly, the survey shows that the average annual cost of private schooling in urban Karnataka -- including fees, transport, books, uniforms and so on-- is nearly Rs 42,000. This is about one-third higher than the national average of Rs 31,800 and the fourth highest among states.

Thirdly, a growing number of children also attend private tuitions, adding another Rs 10,500 on average per year.

Taken together, parents in urban Karnataka spend close to Rs 50,000 a year per child and roughly Rs 1 lakh for two children.

That is not the full picture. The Karnataka government's education budget this year is Rs 40,954 crore, which works out to around Rs 34,000 per child annually across the state's 1.2 crore school-going children (attending government or private schools). This is taxpayer's money -- collected through GST, fuel tax, excise, and income tax-- it's really the public who indirectly pay Rs 34,000 per child.

Adding the state's expenditure of Rs 34,000 per child to the average household spending of Rs 42,000 on private schooling, plus tuition of Rs 10,500, the total annual cost comes close to Rs 87,000 per child per year! How can any poor or middle-class parent afford this? The burden is often overwhelming.

What do these parents receive in return? In 2025, the SSLC pass percentage in private schools was just 75% (with the government schools performing even worse). Many families feel they are paying heavily without being assured of quality.

The result is clear: a weak government school system and an expensive private school network, both struggling to deliver consistently high standards, leave parents in Karnataka anxious and stretched, struggling to provide their children with a good education.

Why has this happened, and what can be done?

Over the years, schooling in Karnataka has become a big business, often sponsored and owned by a corrupt political nexus. Irrespective of the political party or ideology, politicians look at the education sector as another lucrative enterprise. Fee hikes are frequent, while investment in teaching quality and infrastructure remains limited. Government schools, meanwhile, have been neglected, leaving parents with few alternatives.

The answer to the second part of the question is also evident. Examples of improvement exist. Delhi's government school reforms between 2015 and 2025, initiated by the AAP government, are now widely cited as a global case study. The model shows the impact of strong political will. With sustained investment in teaching quality, curriculum, infrastructure and accountability, the system achieved marked progress within a decade. Today, nearly six in 10 students in Delhi study in free government schools, enrolments continue to rise, and CBSE results surpass those of many private schools. Thousands of students are entering premier higher education institutions for engineering and medical streams at no cost to their parents. At the same time, fee hikes in private schools have been strictly regulated.

This shows that change is possible with political will and consistent effort. Karnataka, too, must aim to provide affordable, high-quality public education so that parents can realise their deepest wish: a good education and a better future for their children.

(The writer is treasurer of the Aam Aadmi Party, Karnataka)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 1975

Shinde hopeful of doing away with food imports

Srinagar, September 3
Mr A. P. Shinde, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, said today there were bright prospects this year that the country might surpass 108 million tonnes bumper crop harvested during 1970-71 and "thus do away with imports of foodgrains." Mr. Shinde told newsmen that firm estimates regarding the foodgrains procured throughout the country would be known after a fortnight when the Agricultural Prices Commission submits its report to the Government.

25 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 2000

Blueprint to tackle poverty in State by year-end

New Delhi, Sept 3
Chief Minister S M Krishna has set up a core group to prepare a strategy paper and action plan for poverty eradication in Karnataka. Headed by State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Jairam Ramesh, the group will go into four major issues to fight poverty: inter-district variation in poverty, flow of public expenditure to different districts within the State, study of existing programmes for poverty alleviation and evaluation if any conducted on the effectiveness of these programmes.

OASIS | SANDHYA VASUDEV

Giving back, the eternal cycle of charity

All religions ordain that each one should donate a part of his earnings in charity. The donee could be an individual or an organisation that pools such funds for a greater cause. Each contribution is valuable, just as every raindrop contributes to making a rivulet. At times the donor willingly gives a wee bit more than what is expected of him, or most times gives much less than what he can actually afford to give.

The Vedas emphasise charity from time immemorial. It is called *daan*, and various types such as *annadaan*, *vastrdaan*, *jaladaan*, *vidyadaan*, and *bhumidaan* are in practice. As per the Vedic scriptures, the recipient for certain types of *daan* should be an *uttama-patra*, or one with excellent qualities and deserving of receiving the pious *daan*. But there is no such restriction for *annadaan* (food donation), recognising that the hunger in an ant is the same as in an elephant and in each one of us.

Food donation is considered the best, and large Hindu temples disburse free food for all. One can next donate to a religious cause, as many temples need huge funds for renovation or expansion or making accessories for the deity, and one may donate as per ability or desire. Although you donate a lakh of rupees, it may seem a paltry amount towards a humongous corpus, with the naysayer and the insensitive critic belittling your effort, saying that the amount may seem big to you but would hardly make an impact.

Nevertheless, give, as any donation made with pure devotion will definitely incur the blessings of the seer seeking such donations, along with ushering unseen divine blessings.

Sikhism has *Vand Chakna*, wherein one shares what one has with others without any bias. The *langar* is a Sikh community kitchen where free meals are served without discrimination to all through voluntary service. Islam prescribes *sadaqah* and *zakat*, the former being voluntary and the latter, mandatory.

Charity is embedded in Christianity, and volunteering in the form of time, money and resources is practised. When you indulge in charitable acts, you grow spiritually and experience a sense of fulfilment. Nothing is yours; you are giving back what you have received, which you will receive in some form again in the future – it is an eternal cycle.

New immigration rules: Colleges must share foreign students' records

Also, medical institutions should provide details of foreign patients & their attendants

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Educational institutions will have to provide details of the academic performance of foreign students and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders every semester and their attendance details twice a year, according to the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025.

Every educational institution admitting students hailing from foreign countries will have to submit the prescribed Form II within 24 hours from the time of the admission, the rules for implementing the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 notified on Monday.

According to the Act, every university and educational Institution or any other institution admitting any foreigner shall furnish information about them, including their course, its pattern, duration and fee structure to the Registration Officer.

The rules said that educational institutions should submit the forms on the designated portal or mobile application 'Indian Visa Su-Swagatam'. If the institution is providing hostel facilities, it will also have to submit a separate Form III that deals with providing accommodation to foreigners.

The educational institutions will have to provide details, whether the foreign student is regular or irregular in attending classes, whether she passed or failed the exams and whether she is eligible to continue the course.

The institution will also have to mark whether the student's conduct is "good" or "bad" and provide a description of the conduct. It will also provide the reasons for a student exiting the institution—course completed, discontinued or terminated.

Similarly, hospitals, nursing homes and other medical institutions providing "medical, lodging or sleeping facility" in their premises to foreign patients and their attendants will have to inform the relevant authorities about their arrival and departure within 24 hours. They will also have to record the address to which they are proceeding after discharge from the facility.

The hospitals will have to maintain the details electronically for a period of one year and make them available on demand by specified officials.

"All particulars shall be recorded by the person in charge of the hospital, nursing home or any other medical institution in English language, if he is so able, or otherwise, in an Indian language," the rules said.

Kerala docs treat 1st dual case of amoebic & fungal infections

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PTI: Kerala's health sector has achieved a rare feat by successfully treating a 17-year-old boy who was simultaneously infected with amoebic meningoencephalitis and Aspergillus flavus, Health Minister Veena George said on Wednesday.

She said this was the first known case in the world where a patient with both infections had been treated successfully and made a full recovery.

"The boy was under treatment at Alappuzha Medical College Hospital for three weeks and was then shifted to Thiruvananthapuram Medical College.

"The neurosurgery team conducted surgeries on the patient, and he has now completely recovered after three months of treatment," the health minister told reporters.

The microbiology lab at Alappuzha identified the disease-causing amoeba and fungus from the patient's spinal fluid, following which treatment was initiated in line with government guidelines, she said.

An MRI scan showed pus in the brain, and the patient was shifted to Thiruvananthapuram, where a neurosurgery team operated. As his condition worsened, a second surgery was performed, after which the boy began to recover.

Centre to amend 2019 rules for new drugs, clinical trials

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Centre is set to amend the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019, which would halve the statutory time to process applications for test licenses to manufacture or use a new drug in clinical trials, promoting ease of doing business in the pharmaceutical sector.

The Union health ministry sought public comments on the proposed amendments to the rules through a gazette notification on August 28.

It said the proposed changes aim to simplify the requirements and procedures for obtaining test licences and for submitting applications for bioavailability/bioequivalence (BA/BE) studies.

The amendments look to dispense with the existing licence requirement for certain categories of BA/BE studies, which may instead be initiated upon submission of an intimation or notification to the Central Licensing Authority.

Moreover, the overall statutory processing time for test licence applications will be reduced from 90 days to 45 days.

According to the ministry, these regulatory reforms are expected to benefit stakeholders by significantly reducing the time for processing applications.

"It would also reduce the number of license applications being submitted by approximately 50 per cent. This will facilitate quicker initiation of BA/BE studies, testing and examination of drugs for research, and reduce delays in the drug development and approval processes," it stated.

The amendments will also enable the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to optimise the deployment of its human resources, thereby enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of regulatory oversight.

This initiative underscores the Government of India's commitment to ongoing regulatory reforms in the pharmaceutical sector, the ministry added.

Second newborn bitten by rats at Madhya Pradesh govt hospital dies

INDORE, PTI: A second newborn girl, bitten by rats at Indore's government-run Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital (MYH), died on Wednesday, with the medical facility's administration attributing the cause to septicemia (blood poisoning or blood infection).

MYH Deputy Superintendent Dr Jitendra Verma told reporters that the baby, who was recently attacked by rats at the hospital, died during treatment. He said the girl, weighing just 1.60 kgs, was suffering from different congenital deformities, including intestinal malformation.

Verma said the girl was operated upon seven days ago, but her condition was critical due to septicemia. She eventually died due to septicemia, an infection that occurs when bacteria enter the bloodstream and spread.

The hospital deputy superintendent said that, as per the wishes of the girl's family members, her post-mortem examination was not conducted, and the body was handed over to them.

He said the girl was bitten by rats on two fingers of her left hand, causing 'mild scratches'.

Earlier, another newborn girl, who was also a victim of the rat attack at MYH, died on Tuesday. This girl was also suffering from different congenital deformities and died due to 'pneumonia infection', hospital officials had said.

Both the rat attack victims were admitted to the ICU of the department related to the surgery of newborns.

Based on the initial investigation into the rat-biting incidents at the hospital, two nursing officers were suspended on Tuesday, and a nursing superintendent was removed from the post, officials said. The private firm contracted for cleaning and pest control at MYH was issued a warning letter and fined Rs 1 lakh, they added.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

THERE'S MY NEW CAR DOWN IN THE PARKING LOT, BUMSTEAD... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WOW! IS IT THAT BRAND-NEW CYBERTRUCK OVER THERE, BOSS?
I'D LOVE TO HAVE ONE OF THOSE!
BUT YOU HAVEN'T MADE ME ENOUGH MONEY THIS YEAR TO AFFORD ONE!
5-29

Hagar The Horrible

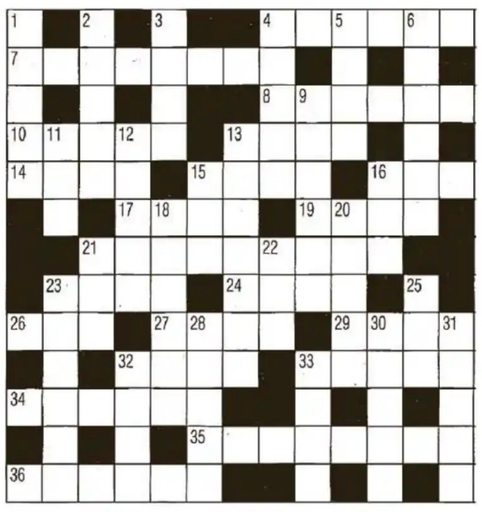
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

HERE YOU GO!
THIS KIND OF DOG FOOD IS NO TROUBLE AT ALL
YOU JUST POUR IT INTO THE BOWL, ADD A LITTLE WATER AND STIR IT UP!
I'D RATHER BE WORTH A LITTLE TROUBLE

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12239



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Lower to the sea bed, strangely enough (6)
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13 Uncle Fred's musical symbol (4)
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16 That backward boy (3)
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19 Slavonic river? (4)
21 Advertising, etc., in favour of keeping things moving (9)
23 Politician's treatment centre at central hospitals (4)
24 Fully centralised by November, but of no consequence (4)
26 Less than a siphonful (3)
27 Now it can be a word of warning (4)
29 Unhappy when left in a sticky situation (4)
32 Excessively light-headed, the worker can handle it (4)
33 State the chief foregone conclusion (5)
34 Plays the banjo to get drinks on the street (6)
35 Bullfighter who possibly orated some words (8)
36 Charlie's darlings? (6)

DOWN
1 Misquote Oliver? (5)
2 Lamb creating a record by possessing a uniform (5)
3 How a swot pulls up (4)
4 Formal procedure for a healer of the sick (5)
5 Muscular power transforms some of the feeble (4)
6 The place in front is just right (4,2)
9 Pass on the story and make it real (6)
11 A piece of cake, we hear, for a girl (3)
12 A bit on the side (5)
13 The C.O., we hear, is a bit of a nut (7)
15 Border of Bethlehem? (3)
16 Over there in the canyon (3)
18 A base Shakespeare role (6)
20 Singing boatmen's river (5)
21 Seedy Dickens character (3)
22 Nutcracker container? (3)
23 In a cylinder it moves to different points (6)
25 Early riser (3)
28 Armies of innkeepers? (5)
30 Colin Dale's girl (5)
31 Being cheerful makes me sorry? Not so! (5)
32 Something to play, for it means wealth (4)
33 Mete out what is suitable! (4)

EASY

ACROSS
4 Surrender (4,2)
7 Able to read and write (8)
8 Difficult question (6)
10 Undress (5)
13 Nobleman (4)
14 Croon (4)
15 Overdue (4)
16 Cut with an axe (3)
17 Look lasciviously (4)
19 Face part (4)
21 Puts forward (9)
23 Aeroplane manoeuvre (4)
24 Gaelic (4)
26 Cover (3)
27 Be unsuccessful (4)
29 Fall in drops (4)
32 Boxing match (4)
33 Stage whisper (5)
34 Every time (6)
35 Exciting book or film (8)
36 Coils, spins (6)

DOWN
1 Lustre (5)
2 Harsh, severe (5)
3 Grasp (4)
4 Gain access to (3,2)
5 Calf meat (4)
6 Irregular (6)
9 Puts up (6)
11 Gratuity (3)
12 Eskimo dwelling (5)
13 Sincere (7)
15 Hawaiian garland (3)
16 Belonging to him (3)
18 Use (6)
20 Takes notice of (5)
21 Signal agreement (3)
22 Land measure (3)
23 Keep quiet or unseen (3,3)
25 Offer (3)
28 Expels (5)
30 Firearm (5)
31 Oyster's gem (5)
32 Flying mammals (4)
33 Sour-tasting substance (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12238

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Coster 7, Overture 8,Ta-ta 10, Seaman 11, Ripest 14, Leg 16, Nos.ES 17, Eels 19, Co-pe-d 21, Paper 22, N-ewer 23, Bo-sh 26, S-ever 28, Sax 29, Play up 30, Carols 31, Aden 32, Enviable 33, Not(h)ing.
DOWN: 1, Chaste 2,Thames 3, Roan (Rhone) 4,Trainer 5, Dukes 6, Certs 8,Ta-LL 9,Tag 12, P-od 13, Sears 15, Moped 18, Easel 19, Caw 20, Per 21, Per-us-al 22, Ney 23, Barest 24, Ox-on 25, Ho-sin-g 26, Speed 27, Valve 28, Sad 30, Caen.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Create 7, Shrapnel 8, Lamp 10, Pricey 11, Figure 14, Nut 16,Tenor 17, Sags 19, Banal 21, Bagel 22, Sinew 23, Belt 26, Hippo 28,Tea 29, Inhale 30,Tissue 31, Omit 32, Category 33, Sweats.
DOWN: 1, Campus 2, Abacus 3, Espy 4, Capital 5, In fun 6, Alter 8, Ling 9, Met 12, Gel 13, Royal 15, Lager 18, Again 19, Ban 20, New 21, Biology 22, Spa 23, Beside 24, East 25,Themes 26, Hitch 27, Photo 28,Tim 30,Toys.

◆SU-DO-KU-6692◆

9		2			1	5	8	
				9	8	2		
	8						7	1
				1	2	6		
2								3
		5	6	7				
5	2						9	
		9	8	5				
	7	3	2			1		5

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6691

8	9	1	5	2	4	7	3	6
6	3	2	7	8	1	5	9	4
4	5	7	3	6	9	2	8	1
7	1	9	8	3	6	4	5	2
2	6	3	4	1	5	9	7	8
5	4	8	9	7	2	1	6	3
9	2	4	6	5	3	8	1	7
1	7	6	2	9	8	3	4	5
3	8	5	1	4	7	6	2	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
E1	O1	U1	G2	B3	L1	L1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 2
R1	B3	S1	L1	U1	A1	P3		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 3
A1	U1	L1	R1	D2	N1	E1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 4
T1	D2	E1	C3	N1	R1	E1		

PAR SCORE 205-215
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

D2	I1	C3	T1	A1	T1	E1	RACK 1 =	66
P3	A1	Y4	A1	B3	L1	E1	RACK 2 =	92
R1	E1	N1	A1	M3	E1		RACK 3 =	8
M3	O1	O1	C3	H4	E1	R1	RACK 4 =	64
							JUDD'S TOTAL	230

PAR SCORE 150-160

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LDHIC

GMEAO

PSECIT

RABEKM

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIEF COVET MOMENT CASINO
Answer: The package thief didn't notice the front-door camera recording the — "SEEN" OF THE CRIME

HITORI-3146

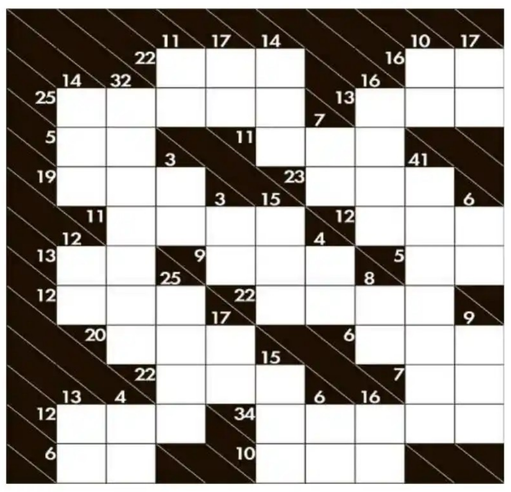
5	8	6	8	8	1	3	7
8	2	4	8	1	7	6	3
8	8	3	5	6	8	2	8
3	6	2	8	7	8	5	6
4	1	5	2	8	3	2	8
6	8	7	4	4	5	8	8
8	4	1	3	8	2	8	5
2	5	8	2	3	6	1	7

SOLUTION TO 3145

■	4	6	1	■	2	■	3
3	■	7	■	2	8	5	4
6	8	2	5	■	7	■	1
■	1	■	4	7	3	2	6
4	■	5	■	1	6	7	■
7	2	1	6	8	■	3	5
2	5	4	3	■	1	8	■
■	6	■	2	5	■	1	8

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3146



SOLUTION TO 3145

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3666

■	3							■
	4				8	6	■	
2		5				3		
4			■		■		2	
		2	5	■				3
	6		1		■	7	5	
		■				■	9	
	9						1	
■		1			9			■

SOLUTION TO 3665

6	4	3	7	1	5	8	9	2
5	9	8	4	2	3	1	7	6
2	7	1	9	8	6	3	4	5
4	1	7	2	3	9	6	5	8
8	2	6	1	5	7	9	3	4
9	3	5	8	6	4	2	1	7
3	8	4	5	9	2	7	6	1
7	6	2	3	4	1	5	8	9
1	5	9	6	7	8	4	2	3

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Trump assures Poland of robust US military presence

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: President Donald Trump affirmed that the United States will keep a robust military presence in Poland as he had a warm meeting Wednesday with Karol Nawrocki, the new president of the American ally in Europe.

As the leaders sat side by side in the White House, Trump said the US-Polish relationship has always been strong but "now it's better than ever".

"We'll put more there if they want," Trump told reporters.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client has filed a suit for Specific Performance against Sri. N. Sriram Reddy and others in O.S No.98/2021 in respect of an Agricultural Property more fully described in the schedule hereunder (Schedule Property) before the Hon'ble III Addl. Senior Civil Judge at Bengaluru Rural. The Hon'ble Senior Civil Judge at Bengaluru Rural has granted an **Interim Order dated 16-01-2021,** restraining the Defendant No.1 thereon (Sri. N. Sriram Reddy) from alienating to any person changing the nature and creating third party interest on the Suit Schedule Property.

The general public are hereby cautioned not to enter into any agreement to sell or sale deed in respect of Schedule Property with Sri. N. Sriram Reddy and Smt. Muneera Begum W/o. Late Mohammed Akramulla. Failing which, my client will take necessary action/initiate proper action for the disobedience of the **Interim Order dated 16-01-2021** at your cost consequences.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural property bearing Sy. No. 453 (new), old Sy. No. 46/P140, (Sy. No. 46), measuring 1 (ONE) acre of Kaggalipura Village Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on: -

East by : Private Property
West by : Property belonging to Basappa
North by : Road
South by : Property belonging to Javaraiah

Address
Jayanth H. Poojary, Advocate
No. 107, 3rd Floor, 8th C Main, Opp. Jain Temple, 4th Block, Jayanagar (West) Bangalore-560011, Mob No: 9741190333.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

E - Tender Notice No. : GNT/SG/36/351, Dated : 30-08-2025 PUB/1068

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below up to **12:00 hours of 22-09-2025.**

ID. No. : 351. Name of the work : Signalling arrangements in connection with **1)** Replacement of Over aged IPS, Track Circuit, VHF Batteries over Guntur division. **2)** Replacement of web detectors (Tx/Rx coils) of HASSDAC at 38 stations over Guntur Division. **3)** Replacement of Analog Axle counters with MSDAC for loop lines at CMZ station in Guntur Division.
Advertised Tender Value (Rs.) : 4,27,76,649.84. **Earnest Money Deposit / Bid security (Rs.) :** 3,63,900/-. **Cost of Tender Document (Rs.) : NIL.**

1. Last dates for online submission of E-bids are **22-09-2025 up to 12:00 hours.** For detailed information logon to our website at **www.ireps.gov.in.**
2. Any further communication / corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom. Engineer / Guntur.

Tender Notice No. : ELEC-TRS-GTL-25-26-e-Tn-6, Dated : 22-08-2025 PUB/1069

The undersigned invites tenders for the following work upto **16:00 hours on 15-09-2025.**

Sl. No. : 1. Tender No. : ELEC-TRS-GTL-25-26-e-Tn-6 Dated : 22-08-2025. **Description :** Repair of N-32 type Tap Changer for maintenance spares for major overhauling schedule (TOH/IOH) of Conventional Electric Locos for a period of 18 months at Locomotive Shed, Guntakal.
Approximate Value in Rs. : 64,05,648.00. **Earnest Money Deposit :** 1,28,200.00. **Period of contract :** 18 Months.

Closing Date and Time : 15-09-2025 at 16:00 hours.

For Bidding the tender and other details login to **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** If any Corrigendum to the tender is to be issued, the same will be issued online only.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Locomotive shed, Guntakal.

Tender Notice No. : 9-MECH-NMG-NMGHS-TPTY-25, Dated : 01-09-2025 PUB/1070

Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer / Carriage Repair Shop / Tirupati acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No: mentioned here under closing date as mentioned below up to 15:00 hours. Bidder will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender , and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Sl. No. 1. Description of work : TENDER NOTICE No. 9-MECH-NMG-NMGHS-TPTY-25, Dated : 01-09-2025. "Conversion of NMG coaches to NMGHS Coaches at Carriage Repair Shop - Tirupati".
Approximate Cost (in Rs.) : Rs.1,49,88,685/-. **Bid Security (in Rs.) :** 2,25,000/-. **Period of Completion :** 2 Months. **Date of Closing :** 22-09-2025 @ 15:00 Hours.
Website particulars : www.ireps.gov.in.
Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen : Office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati.
For further Tender Conditions / details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of Tender Documents, Corrigendum, please visit our website https://www.ireps.gov.in.

Chief Workshop Manager, (CRS), Tirupati. A1337

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Show of power: 'Humanity is again faced with a choice between peace and war'

China's rejuvenation unstoppable: Xi

Leaders of Pakistan, Nepal and Maldives present at mega military parade

BEIJING, PTI

President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday that the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is "unstoppable" as the country's military displayed for the first time some of its brand-new weapons, including hypersonic, laser and long-range ballistic missiles.

Addressing an impressive parade to commemorate the 80th anniversary of China's victory against Japanese aggression in World War II, Xi said, "the Chinese nation is never intimidated by any bullies and always forges ahead," in a veiled dig at US President Donald Trump's tariff threats. "History cautions us that humanity rises and falls together," he said.

He called on the People's Liberation Army to provide strategic support for national rejuvenation. The Chinese military, for the first time, displayed in the parade some of its most advanced military hardware in an apparent show of strength to the world, especially the US.

Xi, who heads the Central Military Commission, the overall high command of the PLA, asked the Chinese military to build itself into a world-class force and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Beijing on Wednesday. AP/PTI

Chinese troops march in Tiananmen Square. AFP

Spectators watch as DF-5C intercontinental strategic nuclear missiles are showcased in Beijing on Wednesday. REUTERS

China is the second-largest defence spender after the US — with a budget of $250 billion in 2025. Besides the military hardware, the parade also showcased China's diplomatic power as 26 foreign leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, attended the event.

From India's neighbourhood, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu took part in the event. India's Ambassador to China, Pradeep Kumar Rawat, attended the event.

Leaders from the US and heads of the European Union, besides Japan and South Korea, have stayed away from the parade. The presence of foreign leaders at the parade has become a diplomatic spat between Japan and China after Tokyo urged the world leaders to refrain from attending.

China lodged a diplomatic protest with Japan for its request to the world leaders not to attend the event. In his speech, Xi said victory against Japan in WWII marks China's first complete victory against foreign aggression in modern times. "Today, humanity is again faced with a choice between peace or war, dialogue or confrontation, and win-win outcomes or zero-sum games," Xi said, flanked by Putin and Kim.

At the parade, China displayed a range of new weapon systems, which included new-type DF-5C liquid-fuelled intercontinental strategic nuclear missiles. The missile has a range of more than 20,000 km. It can cover the entire globe under its strike range.

Other weapon systems on display included a vehicle-based laser defence weapon, four types of aircraft carrier-based fighter jets, deep-sea drones, H-6J long-range bomber, airborne early warning aircraft, army and navy drones, DF-26D anti-ship ballistic missiles with a range of 5000 km, CJ-1000 long-range hypersonic cruise missiles, air defence systems, HQ-29 ballistic missile interceptor, Carrier killer' missiles, new battle tank Type 99B and multiple rocket launchers.

Putin-Xi 'hot-mic' chat on immortality sparks buzz

BEIJING, REUTERS: When Russian President Vladimir Putin walked shoulder to shoulder with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday, a hot mic caught them discussing organ transplants and the possibility that humans could live to 150 years old.

The moment came as Putin and Xi walked with North Korea's Kim Jong Un at the head of a delegation of over two dozen foreign leaders.

The moment was carried on the livestream provided by state broadcaster CCTV to other media. China's radio and TV administration said CCTV's coverage of the event was viewed 1.9 billion times online and by more than 400 million on TV.

As Putin and Xi walked toward the Tiananmen rostrum where they viewed the parade with Kim, Putin's translator could be heard saying in Chinese: "Biotechnology is continuously developing." The translator added: "Human organs can be continuously transplanted. The longer you live, the younger you become, and (you can) even achieve immortality."

In response, Xi, who was off camera, can be heard responding in Chinese: "Some predict that in this century humans may live to 150 years old."

NEW WEAPONRY: MESSAGE OF DETERRENCE

■ From an upgraded, nuclear-armed missile with near-global reach, to air defence lasers, hypersonic weapons, and sea drones that could crowd its near seas, China sent a broad message of deterrence with its largest ever military parade on Wednesday.

Russia to complete tasks militarily if no deal with Ukraine, says Putin

Russian leader thanks Kim Jong Un for sending troops

BEIJING, AFP

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday his country would carry on fighting in Ukraine if a peace deal could not be reached, as he wrapped up a visit to China.

Progress towards settling the three-and-a-half-year war appears to have stalled despite a flurry of diplomatic efforts from US President Donald Trump, who met both his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts last month.

Putin said he thought there was "light at the end of the tunnel", but promised to continue fighting. "Let's see how the situation develops. If not, then we will have to resolve all our tasks militarily," Putin told reporters in Beijing when asked about the prospects for a deal.

The Kremlin chief, who again ruled out an immediate meeting with Volodymyr Zelenskyy, went on a long tirade questioning the Ukrainian leader's legitimacy.

Putin also thanked Kim Jong Un during their meeting in Beijing for sending North Korean soldiers to fight against Ukrainian forces. "At your initiative, as is well known, your special forces participated in the liberation of the Kursk region," Putin told Kim.

"I would like to note that we will never forget the sacrifices made by your armed forces and the families of your servicemen. On behalf of the Russian people, I would like to thank you."

Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Beijing on Wednesday. REUTERS

14 killed in Pak suicide bombing

KARACHI, PTI: At least 14 people have been killed and 35 others injured in a suicide bombing shortly after the conclusion of a public rally organised by the Balochistan National Party (BNP) in Quetta, according to media reports.

The explosion occurred close to Shahwani Stadium in the Sariab area on Tuesday night after the rally held to mark the fourth death anniversary of Sardar Attaullah Mengal ended, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar confirmed the casualties.

Officials confirmed it was a suicide attack, the Dawn reported. According to police, the explosion occurred about 15 minutes after the meeting ended.

The bomber allegedly detonated his explosives-laden jacket in the parking area as participants were leaving the meeting.

Judge orders search shakeup in Google monopoly case

SAN FRANCISCO, AP/PTI: A federal judge on Tuesday ordered a shake-up of Google's search engine in an attempt to curb the corrosive power of an illegal monopoly while rebuffing the US government's attempt to break up the company and impose other restraints.

The 226-page decision made by US District Judge Amit Mehta in Washington, DC, on Tuesday will likely ripple across the technological landscape at a time when the industry is being reshaped by breakthroughs in artificial intelligence — including conversational "answer engines" as companies like ChatGPT and Perplexity try to upend Google's long-held position as the internet's main gateway.

The innovations and competition being unleashed by AI also reshaped the judge's approach to the remedies in the nearly five-year-old antitrust case brought by the US Justice Department during President Donald Trump's first administration and carried onward by President Joe Biden's administration. "Unlike the typical case where the court's job is to resolve a dispute based on historic facts, here the court is asked to gaze into a crystal ball and look to the future. Not exactly a judge's forte," Mehta wrote.

The judge is trying to rein in Google by prohibiting some of the tactics the company deployed to drive traffic to its search engine and other services. The ruling also will pry open some of the prized databases of closely guarded information about search that have provided Google with a insurmountable advantage.

The handcuffs being slapped on Google will preclude contracts that give its search engine, Gemini AI app, Play Store for Android and virtual assistant an exclusive position on smartphone, personal computers and other devices.

But Mehta stopped short of banning the multi-billion dollar deals that Google has been making for years to lock in its search engine as the default on phones and other devices.

Construction intensifies at site linked to Israel's nuclear weapons facility

DUBAI, AP/PTI: Construction work has intensified on a major new structure at a facility key to Israel's long-suspected atomic weapons programme, according to satellite images analysed by experts. They say it could be a new reactor or a facility to assemble nuclear arms — but secrecy shrouding the programme makes it difficult to know for sure.

The work at the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Centre near the city of Dimona will renew questions about Israel's widely believed status as the Mideast's only nuclear-armed state.

It could also draw international criticism, especially since it comes after Israel and the United States bombed nuclear sites across Iran in June over their fears that the Islamic Republic could use its enrichment facilities to pursue an atomic weapon. Among the sites attacked was Iran's heavy water reactor at Arak.

Seven experts who examined the images all said they believed the construction was related to Israel's long-suspected nuclear weapons program, given its proximity to the reactor at Dimona, where no civilian power plant exists. However, they split on what the new construction could be.

Three said the location and size of the area under construction and the fact that it appeared to have multiple floors meant the most likely explanation for the work was the construction of a new heavy water reactor. Such reactors can produce plutonium and another material key to nuclear weapons.

The other four acknowledged it could be a heavy water reactor but also suggested the work could be related to a new facility for assembling nuclear weapons. They declined to be definitive given the construction was still in an early stage.

"It's probably a reactor — that judgement is circumstantial but that's the nature of these things," said Jeffrey Lewis, an expert at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, who based his assessment on the images and Dimona's history.

2 Indian students killed in UK car collision

LONDON, PTI: Two students from Telangana have been killed in a two-car road collision at a major roundabout in Essex, south-east England, while five others sustained serious injuries, local police have said.

While Chaitanya Tarre, 23, died on the spot, Rishi Teja Rapolu, 21, succumbed to his injuries in hospital soon after the accident at the Rayleigh Spur roundabout early Monday.

Essex Police said two other men from east London who were driving the cars at the time of the crash were arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving before being released on bail.

"Sadly, one man died at the scene while another died in hospital. Specialist officers are supporting their families. Five other people were taken to hospital with serious injuries," Essex Police said in a statement.

"The drivers of the two cars – two men from Barking aged 23 and 24 – were arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Trump hints at Phase 2 & 3 sanctions on India over Russian oil

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he had imposed secondary sanctions on India for buying Russian oil and indicated that he had not yet implemented "phase two" or "phase three."

Trump, while participating in a bilateral meeting in the Oval Office with Poland's President Karol Nawrocki, appeared irritated when a Polish reporter asked him why he had expressed frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin but had not taken any action over it.

"How do you know there's no action? Would you say that imposing secondary sanctions on India, the largest purchaser outside of China and almost equal to it, amounted to no action? That cost Russia hundreds of billions of dollars. You call that no action? And I haven't done phase two yet or phase three. But when you say there's no action, I think you ought to get yourself a new job," Trump shot back at the reporter.

Trump added that two weeks ago he had warned, "If India buys, India's got big problems, and that's what happens. So don't tell me about that."

DONALD TRUMP
US President

"If India buys (Russian oil), India's got big problems, and that's what happens.

When asked about Putin, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping attending China's military parade, and whether he was considering slapping secondary sanctions on Moscow, Trump said, "Well, I've already done that with regard to India, and we're doing it with regard to other things."

Trump has imposed 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs on India and an additional 25 per cent levy on Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, bringing the total duties imposed on India to 50 per cent, effective August 27.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asserted that he cannot compromise on the interests of farmers, cattle-rearers and small-scale industries, cautioning, "Pressure on us may increase, but we will bear it."

India has described the tariffs imposed by the US as "unjustified and unreasonable."

New Delhi stated that, like any major economy, it will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security.

MORE ACTION

■ India has described the tariffs imposed by the US as "unjustified and unreasonable".

■ US President claims he had told India two weeks earlier that buying Russian oil would bring "big problems"

■ The US has imposed 25% reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods and an additional 25% levy on India's purchases of Russian oil, bringing the total to 50%

AT A GLANCE

Chopper with 8, including Indian, crashes

▸ A rescue team on Wednesday reached the site of a helicopter crash on Borneo, recovering one body, authorities said. Seven people remain unaccounted for, AP/PTI reports from Jakarta.

The discovery in the tropical island's forests came after three days of searching for the helicopter, which went down with eight people on board. Rescuers recovered one body about 100 meters from the helicopter. Initial observations from the team indicate that more victims were still inside the aircraft. Three foreign nationals — an American, a Brazilian and an Indian — are among the eight people who were on board the helicopter. The Airbus BK117 D-3, owned by Eastindo Air, lost contact with air traffic control eight minutes after departing from the airport in Kotabaru district in Indonesia's South Kalimantan province on Monday.

Disney fined $10 million

▸ The Walt Disney Co will pay a $10 million fine to settle a Federal Trade Commission lawsuit alleging it allowed personal data to be collected on kids under 13, violating federal law, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

The FTC said Disney violated the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, which requires kid-oriented apps and websites to get parents' consent before collecting personal information of children under 13. According to the complaint, Disney failed to properly label some videos that it uploaded to YouTube as "Made for Kids."

US House Representative Ro Khana holds a press conference on Epstein Files Transparency bill in Washington DC on Wednesday. REUTERS

WhatsApp fixes security flaw

▸ WhatsApp has patched a security vulnerability that allowed sophisticated attacks against the Apple devices of "specific targeted users", AP/PTI reports from New York.

The messaging app, owned by Meta Platforms, said in a blog post that its vulnerability, chained with a bug found in iOS and iPadOS, allowed hackers to exploit and steal information from Apple devices. In a post on social media platform X, Amnesty's Security Lab researcher Donncha Ó Cearbhaill said the malicious campaign lasted about 90 days. He said other apps beyond WhatsApp may also have been affected.

Actress Saja Kilani promotes "The Voice of Hind Rajab" at the Venice Film Festival on Wednesday. REUTERS

High farm-gate prices, looming EUDR rules hit coffee exports

Exporters stare at 50,000 tonnes of unsold stock in 2025

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

High farm-gate prices and looming European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR) is likely to result in the loss of export markets in Europe for Indian coffee exporters.

While a majority of Indian coffee growers are yet to comply with the EUDR rules, the farm-gate prices of coffee are ruling at a record level of Rs 440 to Rs 460 per kg. As a result, coffee traders are delaying their purchases from the farmers.

It is estimated that about 50,000 metric tonnes of Indian coffee will be left unsold for the growers and India's exports may be far lower than last year, according to the Coffee Exporters' Association of India.

During the period from January 1 to September 1, 2025, India's coffee exports have seen a decline of 11.32% to 2,68,452 metric tonnes. During the corresponding period last year, coffee exports stood at 3,02,752 metric tonnes, according to data available on the Coffee Board of India website. However, in value terms, exporters have earned Rs 12,673 crore during this period as against Rs 9,854 crore in the same period last year.

"Italian buyers are increasingly rejecting Indian coffee due to very high prices quoted by Indian exporters. Italy has been India's largest market for coffee till now and they find our coffee prices are much higher compared to Uganda. Currently, farm-gate prices for raw coffee are very high and as a result Indian exporters are forced to quote high prices to buyers in Italy," Ramesh Rajah, President of the Coffee Exporters' Association of India told *DH*.

India's Robusta coffee is at least 8-9% higher compared to that of Ugandan coffee. Indian Robusta export price is about $5200 to $5250 per tonne FoB compared to $4800 per tonne FoB quoted by Ugandan exporters.

"Our Italian buyers are complaining that our coffee is expensive when compared to Ugandan coffee. It is an unusual situation for us this year as we will be carrying forward about 50,000 tonnes of unsold coffee to the next season. It is normally in the range of 10,000 to 25,000 metric tonnes," Rajah said.

In the 2024 calendar year, India exported 4,02,526 metric tonnes of coffee valued at Rs 14,046 crore. India largely exports to Italy, Germany, Russian Federation, Belgium, UAE, and Turkey.

As part of its derisking strategy, Coffee Exporters' Association is looking at developing new export markets in North Africa, and West Asia, Rajah said.

What are EUDR regulations

The goal of EUDR is to promote transparency and traceability in supply chains, making it easier for consumers to make informed choices about the products they purchase. The key objectives of the EUDR are to block products tied to deforestation and forest degradation, reduce the EU's carbon footprint by promoting climate-friendly sourcing, environmental standards, and anti-corruption standards.

Large coffee planters and exporters must comply with EUDR regulations by December 30, 2025, while small and growers and traders have time till June 30, 2026 to comply.

Gold prices storm past Rs 1.07 lakh per 10 gm

NEW DELHI, PTI: Gold prices rallied Rs 1,000 to touch a fresh record high of Rs 1,07,070 per 10 grams in the local markets on Wednesday amid hopes of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve, mounting geopolitical tensions and growing worries around the US economy.

The precious metal of 99.9% purity had closed at Rs 1,06,070 per 10 grams on Tuesday.

In the Delhi market, gold of 99.5% purity extended the gains for the eighth consecutive session, appreciating Rs 1,000, to hit a fresh record high of Rs 1,06,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Wednesday.

It had settled at Rs 1,05,200 per 10 grams in the previous market session. Meanwhile, silver prices traded flat at Rs 1,26,100 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Wednesday, its all-time high level.

On the MCX, the most traded October contract of gold skyrocketed by Rs 1,148 or 1.08 per cent to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,06,940 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

India Services PMI rises to 15-year high on robust demand

Composite PMI rose to a 17-year high of 63.2 in August

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's services sector growth rose to 15-year high in August driven by a broad-based expansion in international sales that bolstered overall demand, as per an industry survey report released by S&P Global on Wednesday.

India's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for services jumped to 62.9 in August from 60.5 recorded in the previous month. This shows the steepest rate of expansion in India's services sector since June 2010.

"Demand buoyancy, efficiency gains and greater inflows of new business were some of the reasons firms gave for the upturn," S&P Global said in its monthly survey report.

It noted that the Indian service economy benefited from a substantial improvement in demand during August, which pushed growth of new orders and activity to their highest rates in over 15 years.

Concurrently, the rise in international sales was the third-strongest since the series started in September 2014.

"The broad-based expansion in international sales bolstered overall demand, which prompted Indian services firms to hire additional workers. Reflecting higher labour costs and robust demand conditions, both input and output prices increased substantially in August," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

A worker taking notes while talking with a client.

Meanwhile, the composite PMI rose to a 17-year high of 63.2 in August, which indicated strong broad-based output growth in both the manufacturing and service sectors. Manufacturing PMI rose to 59.3 in August, showing sharpest expansion in 17 years, as per data released by S&P Global earlier this week.

The PMI print above 50 indicates growth in the sector while below 50 shows contraction.

Business expenses rose in August driven by higher salaries awarded to workers and overtime payments. The rate of inflation quickened to a nine-month high. Meanwhile, demand buoyancy facilitated the steepest increase in output charges since July 2012.

Hiring growth across India's service economy remained moderate in August. The surveyed firms reported an increase mainly in part-time recruitment.

The rate of expansion in international sales was the third-strongest since the question was added to the survey in September 2014. Panel members signalled greater demand from clients in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the US. The report is based on a monthly survey conducted among over 400 services companies.

Business expectations remained strong. This is reflected in allocation for advertising by the services companies. Majority of the surveyed companies expect that demand trends will remain favourable in the coming months. Some companies also hope to be able to take on more work as a result of staff recruitment in recent months.

FDI up 15% to $18.62 bn in Q1FY26

The US is the third-biggest investor in India

NEW DELHI, PTI

FDI in India rose 15% to US $18.62 billion during April-June this fiscal year, while the inflow from the US nearly tripled to US $5.61 billion during the quarter despite tariff issues, according to government data released on Wednesday.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during April-June FY25 stood at US $16.17 billion. In March quarter 2024-25, the inflows fell 24.5% year-on-year to US $9.34 billion.

Total FDI, which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital, increased to US $25.2 billion during the quarter under review as against US $22.5 billion in the same period of 2024-25.

During the period, the US emerged as the largest source of FDI with US $5.61 billion as against US $1.50 billion in April-June 2024-25 despite tariff issues.

It was followed by Singapore (US $4.59 billion), Mauritius (US $2.08 billion), Cyprus (US $1.1 billion), the UAE (US $1 billion), Cayman Islands (US $676 million), the Netherlands (US $667 million), Japan (US $551 million), and Germany (US $191 million).

The US is the third-biggest investor in India with investments of US $76.26 billion between April 2000 and June 2025. The top investment sources are Mauritius at US $182.2 billion and Singapore at US $179.48 billion in the same period.

Sectorally, inflows rose in computer software and hardware (US $5.4 billion), services (US $3.28 billion), trading (US $506 million), telecommunication (US $24 million), automobile (US $1.29 billion), construction development (US $75 million), non-conventional energy (US $1.14 billion) and chemicals (US $140 million) during April-June quarter.

The data also showed that Karnataka received the highest inflow of US $5.69 billion during the quarter.

It was followed by Maharashtra (US $5.36 billion), Tamil Nadu (US $2.67 billion), Haryana (US $1.03 billion), Gujarat (US $1.2 billion), Delhi (US $1 billion), and Telangana (US $395 million).

The government has put in place an investor-friendly Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, under which most sectors are open for 100% overseas inflows through the automatic route.

The government has undertaken reforms across multiple sectors to liberalise FDI norms. Between 2014 and 2019, significant reforms included increased FDI caps in defence, insurance, and pension sectors, and liberalised policies for construction, civil aviation, and single brand retail trading.

From 2019 to 2024, notable measures included allowing 100% FDI under the automatic route in coal mining, contract manufacturing, and insurance intermediaries. In 2025, the Union Budget proposed increasing the FDI limit from 74% to 100% for companies investing their entire premium within India.

In the whole of last financial year the FDI equity inflows were US $50.01 billion while overall FDI stood at US $80.6 billion.

Germany wants EU-India trade deal concluded by winter this year

BLOOMBERG

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said he's hopeful a long-stalled free-trade accord between the European Union and India can be concluded as soon as the autumn of this year.

The EU launched formal negotiations on a deal with the government in New Delhi nearly 20 years ago but progress has been hampered by entrenched differences in areas like agriculture and market access.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in February agreed to conclude negotiations by the end of this year, but Wadephul's timeline appears even more ambitious.

"Germany is strongly in favour of the trade agreement between the EU and India being quickly agreed," Wadephul told reporters on Wednesday after talks in New Delhi with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

"We can, if we want to, conclude this agreement by this fall and then quickly enter a ratification process," he added. "If others set up barriers to trade, we should respond by lowering these barriers and hurdles."

Germany and its EU partners are seeking to shore up economic ties with India amid concern that US President Donald Trump's trade-tariff onslaught could push the South Asian nation's focus increasingly toward China and Russia.

Last week, Washington doubled levies on India's imports to 50% as punishment for its Russian oil imports. The move stunned officials in New Delhi and added urgency to efforts to secure trade agreements with other partners.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Johann Wadephul during a meeting, in New Delhi on Wednesday. PHOTO: PTI

Jaishankar said he shared Wadephul's "desire and optimism" about an agreement, which he said had taken on "a greater urgency" given the current climate in international commerce.

"It's in our mutual interest that we lower tariffs and we find other ways of expanding our business and economic cooperation," Jaishankar said at a joint news conference.

"It will help stabilise the global economy," he added. "It'll be one of the elements of a ballast that today the world economy really needs."

Wadephul's trip by chance comes just after Modi's attendance at this week's Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Tianjin hosted by President Xi Jinping.

The Chinese leader had a rare, unscripted huddle on Monday with Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, which was seen as a victory for Xi's decade-long political project to build an alternative to the US-led world order.

After his talks with Jaishankar, Wadephul was due to have a short meeting with Modi. The fact that the Indian premier was willing to meet with him is seen by officials in Berlin as a sign that New Delhi wants to maintain close ties.

As well as bringing economic benefits, an EU-India trade deal would "reinforce the broader economic and political links between the EU and India at a time when world affairs are under severe strain," according to report published by the Brussels-based Bruegel think tank in July.

"An ambitious agreement could also help reconstruct a rules-based global order for the new multipolar world," the report added.

Applied Materials leases 8 lakh sq ft office space for Rs 855 crore in ITPB

BENGALURU, DHNS: Semiconductor equipment manufacturer Applied Materials has leased 8.06 lakh sq ft of office space at ITPB, Whitefield, for a monthly rent of Rs 5.97 crore, which translates to Rs 855 crore over a period of 10 years.

The leased space covers the ground and 15 upper floors in the ITPB-Endeavour complex, managed by Information Technology Park Limited (ITPL), at a monthly rent of Rs 74 per sq ft. Applied Materials has also secured a hard option to lease an additional 3 lakh sq ft in an upcoming tower, expected to be ready by October 1, 2027 as per the documents accessed by real estate, data and workflow solutions platform Propstack.

Minister for IT/BT, Priyank Kharge in a post on X said, this will house their expanding operations in Bengaluru and support their upcoming Innovation Center for Semiconductor Manufacturing, a first-of-its-kind R&D fab with 4,851 crore investment and about 1,500 jobs.

"From our visit to their US headquarters in 2023 to sustained discussions through 2024 and the cabinet approval earlier this year, it is encouraging to see these efforts take shape on the ground. This is a big boost for Karnataka's semiconductor industry and our fast-growing Global Capability Centre ecosystem," Kharge said.

Stock markets bounce back, Sensex closes 410 pts higher

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher in a volatile session on Wednesday, driven by a rally in metal stocks and optimism related to the GST Council meeting.

After oscillating between highs and lows, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 409.83 points or 0.51% to settle at 80,567.71. During the day, the benchmark hit a high of 80,671.28 and a low of 80,004.60, gyrating 666.68 points.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 135.45 points or 0.55% to 24,715.05.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Steel jumped the most by 5.90%. Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, Eternal, State Bank of India, and Trent were among the other gainers.

However, Infosys, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, TCS, Adani Ports and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

Indian equities closed higher after a mixed start to the session, buoyed by expectations of a consumption-led stimulus from the potential GST slab rationalisation.

Rupee recovers 13 paise from all-time low to close at 88.02 against $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee recovered 13 paise from its all-time low level to settle at 88.02 against US dollar on Wednesday, on positive domestic equities, softening of crude oil prices and weak US dollar index.

Forex traders said the rupee is trading near all-time low levels amid persistent foreign fund outflows on the back of ongoing trade tariff concerns between India and the US.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.15 against the US dollar, then fell to an intraday low of 88.19 and a high of 87.98 against the American currency.

The domestic unit finally settled for the day at 88.02, higher by 13 paise over its previous closing.

On Tuesday, the rupee declined 5 paise to close at an all-time low of 88.15 against the US dollar.

"The Indian rupee strengthened against the US dollar today on positive domestic equities and softening of crude oil prices at higher levels. Weak US dollar index too favoured the rupee," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst Currency and commodities Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Choudhary further noted that the rupee is expected to trade with a slight negative bias amid persistent FII outflows on the back of ongoing trade tariff concerns between India and the US.

"However, overall weakness in the US dollar and positive tone in the domestic markets may support the rupee at lower levels. Traders may take cues from JOLTS job openings and factory orders data from the US. Investors may remain cautious ahead of non-farm payrolls report from the US this week," he said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.20% to 98.19.

NEW LAUNCH

Maruti Suzuki eyes leadership in SUV segment; drives in new model 'Victoris'

NEW DELHI, PTI

Maruti Suzuki India is looking to roll out more sports utility vehicles, including one for the premium segment, as it aspires to lead the robustly growing vehicle segment, its MD and CEO Hisaschi Takeuchi said on Wednesday.

The success in the SUV segment would also play a key role in the company regaining market share in the overall domestic passenger vehicle market, he noted. SUVs now account for around 55% of the overall passenger vehicle sales in the country.

For Maruti Suzuki, India's largest carmaker, SUVs now account for 28% of the overall sales.

Speaking with reporters on the sidelines of the launch of the company's new mid-sized SUV Victoris, Takeuchi noted that with SUVs now accounting for 55% of the overall market, the segment could not be ignored.

Maruti Suzuki is a leader in entry-level (sub-4-meter) SUVs and is consolidating the mid-sized vertical (above 4-meter in length).

Maruti Suzuki India Limited MD and CEO Hisashi Takeuchi with company's Marketing and Sales Senior Executive Officer Partho Banerjee during the launch of 'Victoris', in Gurugram on Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

It is also looking to foray into the premium segment (above 4.5 meters).

"There is some premiumisation in the Indian market. The trend is there. We are covering up to the mid-size SUV segment but then the over 4.5 meter SUV (segment) is becoming a decent market size. I think we definitely have to have one (product) in this segment. We are talking about this, and we are studying," Takeuchi said.

In order to maintain the company's leadership position in the domestic car market, it has to be number one in the SUV segment, he added.

Currently, Mahindra & Mahindra leads the overall SUV segment in the domestic market.

Takeuchi said the company already has a high market share in the small car segment and it would be the success in the SUV segment which could help it improve its market share gradually from the current level of around 40% to over 50% which it used to have earlier.

On Wednesday, the auto major expanded its product range with the launch of all-new SUV 'Victoris'. It is also set to introduce e-VITARA later this fiscal.

The country's largest carmaker currently sells models like Fronx, Brezza, Jimny and Grand Vitara in the SUV segment.

The automaker began by establishing a strong foundation in the entry-SUV segment with models like Brezza and Fronx, Takeuchi said.

Commenting on the new SUV, Takeuchi said the model comes with multiple powertrain options, including strong hybrid and CNG.

"Victoris is our first car on the road to get Level-2 ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance Systems) with automatic emergency braking, blind spot warning, lane departure prevention and many more," he added.

The model would be sold out from the company's Arena sales network and compete with the likes of Hyundai Creta, Kia Seltos and Honda Elevate.

Maruti Suzuki did not reveal the prices of the new model.

Reviving art, **reshaping schools**

Teachers across Karnataka are blending folk traditions with lessons and inspiring confidence in students, writes Divyashri Mudakavi

For Radhika Metri, a Class 9 student, Togalu Gombe sessions are the highlight of her week at the government-run Karnataka Public School in Kalaburagi. Her classmates nod in agreement, each drawn to a different charm of the age-old leather puppetry art. Some love painting the puppets, while others delight in orchestrating the behind-the-scenes movements. Together, these sessions have sparked a passion for a vanishing folk tradition while also enriching their educational experience.

At the heart of this revival is their art teacher, Mallikarjun Koralli. "When I was transferred to this school two years ago, I noticed many students were uninterested in academics. Art and culture often spark enthusiasm, so I thought of engaging them in Togalu Gombe, a unique craft," says Mallikarjun.

His workshop for students, supported with materials from an NGO, began in January 2024. They started by tracing designs on leather sheets, cutting, painting and joining the figures, before scripting stories, adding music and finally bringing the puppets to life. Now they are confident of giving performances.

The impact of Togalu Gombe sessions extends well beyond learning puppetry. "Koralli has helped students understand various academic topics through Togalu Gombe by drawing inspiration from the characters in their lessons. Most importantly, it has broken caste barriers by uniting students with a common goal," says Ashok Totnalli, a performing artist and teacher.

Students paint Warli art on a school wall in Kelinja, Dakshin Kannada.

A teacher in Kalaburagi guides children in making leather puppets.

Blending art with pedagogy

Totnalli, who teaches at a government school in Neelahalli, Sedam, has also explored blending art with pedagogy. While working in Jakanapalli, a village bordering Telangana, he drew high school students to classes through Doddata, a folk drama tradition. A science drama on health and food, infused with Doddata elements, went on to win a prize at the state-level and left a lasting impression on both students and villagers.

After learning Doddata, even the villagers formed a troupe and performed alongside the children.

"The art form empowered both the young and the old in the village. It also improved school attendance at Jakanapalli as students did not want to miss the drama classes. Our village high school started with just four students in the early 2000s. Totnalli's efforts and the prizes that the students won inspired more students from nearby villages to join this school. Now, we have 130 students," says Narayan Reddy, a village leader.

Even in the Neelahalli school, Totnalli has come up with a drama in English to help students learn the language.

In Manchi, Dakshina Kannada, teacher Taranath Kairangala is training a new generation of students in Warli painting. He teaches the form at several government schools, including the school where he teaches. Alongside his students, he has adorned the walls of many schools across the district with Warli murals.

"I get the walls painted first and then train local students in Warli so they can showcase their talent. I usually prefer teaching students from Class 3," says Taranath.

Ramesh Naik, another teacher whose son learnt Warli from Kairangala said Warli sharpened students' concentration and encouraged self-expression. They brought many elements from their lessons on the walls. They even used Warli on the stage during a district-level children's literary meet.

A teacher instructs students on Halakki Kunita at a Navalgund school.

Infusing confidence

At the Morarji Desai Residential School in Navalgund, Dharwad, music teacher Shridevi Pujar has inspired students by forming a troupe for Chowdaki Pada, a traditional folk song, and Halakki Kunita, a tribal dance. "Over the years, we have seen that students effortlessly grasp academic concepts through art and craft," says Shridevi, who often adapts lessons into stage scripts.

While preparing accessories such as 'Turai' and 'Keerita' for Halakki Kunita, Shridevi notes that children learn best by observing, and such crafts help them overcome boredom, especially in residential schools.

Shrishti Dodmani, a Class 10 student who has chipped in with her teacher in preparing these props said the activity refreshes her instantly so that she can get back to studies. The step-by-step procedure that they followed has helped form her a systematic time-table for her studies.

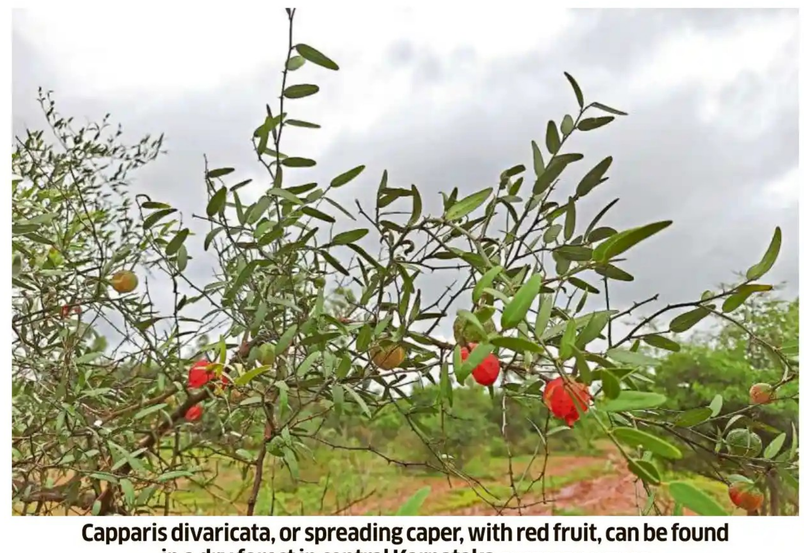
Earlier, at Kittur Rani Chennamma Residential School in Jakkinkatti, Haveri district also, Shridevi had formed a Doddata troupe.

"Girls performing Doddata is rare. But their confidence had no limits when they stepped on stage in costumes. It helped them move out of their comfort zone," recalls Sangamesh Pujar, then principal of the Jakkinkatti school. "Although we have since moved to another school, students there continue to perform. Some are even being trained in theatre," he adds.

Shridevi has also devised creative ways to cover expenses for costumes and props. On one occasion, she organised a children's shandy, or *santhe*, at the school, investing the profits in materials.

Together, these teachers are not only preserving endangered art forms but also proving that when combined with academics, art can create educated students, not merely literate ones.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in



Capparis divaricata, or spreading caper, with red fruit, can be found in a dry forest in central Karnataka. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

The web of life **in drylands**

Dry deciduous and scrub forests may look barren, but teem with unique biodiversity, writes Sanjay Gubbi

The word forest often conjures up lush, evergreen canopies — dense, misty greens cloaked in perpetual foliage. We have been conditioned to equate greenery with vitality, while dryness is seen as barrenness. It is no wonder, then, that dry deciduous and scrub forests receive far less public affection and conservation attention than their evergreen cousins.

But these subdued landscapes hold a secret. If you are looking to witness nature's theatre of seasonal transformation — in colour, texture and rhythm — these dry forests are where the real action unfolds.

A few weeks ago, I found myself walking a quiet trail in one such patch in central Karnataka. Two natural spectacles caught my eye and stirred something deeper in me.

Terminalia elliptica or the Indian laurel, with winged fruits.

The first was a short tree, barely ten feet tall, dressed in small, elliptical green leaves and guarded by sharp stipular spines. Its fruits — Ferrari red and the size of large lemons — drooped low amidst the small, elliptical green leaf-like tiny pomegranate bombs. This was *Capparis divaricata*, commonly known as the spreading caper.

Its soft, custard apple-like pulp is likely savoured by four-horned antelope, blackbuck, chital, and sambar, in places where their habitats intersect. Its leaves nourish butterflies — crimson tip, white-orange tip and yellow-orange tip. Even the critically endangered great Indian bustard (GIB) has been known to feed on it.

The winged fruits

As I moved on, a taller tree pulled me to a stop. Towering and vibrant, it stood alone in full splendour. Against the quiet greens of the monsoon-kissed forest, this tree blazed — not with fire, but with a cascade of beetroot-hued seed pods. They fluttered like delicate paper lanterns strung up for a festival. This was *Terminalia elliptica* — the Indian laurel. Modest in fame, but magnificent in its seasonal flourish.

These fruit pods, shaped like tiny whirligigs, had a rubbery texture and a deep blush that appeared hand-painted. Each fruit pod bore five wings, resembling the fins of a rocket. They erupted in flamboyant clusters, giving the tree a festive allure.

Often mistaken for flowers by the untrained eye, these are, in fact, winged fruits, evolved not merely for beauty but for purpose. When the time is right, the papery wings act as parachutes, helping the seeds drift away on wind currents, nature's elegant way of dispersal and a quiet marvel of evolutionary engineering.

My work in wildlife conservation has taken me to many such forests over the years, and time and again, these trees have taught me that they are not passive beings merely photosynthesising to convert carbon dioxide into oxygen for our benefit. They are life-givers, community builders, and season indicators — the cornerstones of ecosystems.

Post monsoon charm

Post monsoon, this forest will be sun-hammered and parched for the rest of the year. Yet even in those harsher months, the trees don't fall silent. Between January and March, *Butea monosperma* sets fire to the canopy with its riot of orange and vermilion flowers — earning the name flame of the forest.

The colour of this flower is so striking that the Royal Horticultural Society named the shade Indian Orange. For most of the year, the flame of the forest looks unremarkable. But in peak summer, it transforms into a lifeline for the ecosystem. Its nectar draws countless birds, making it a keystone species. In return, these feathered visitors carry pollen from tree to tree.

Month after month, the dry forest changes its costumes — orange to yellow, white to red. It is a quiet spectacle, often unnoticed, but no less magnificent than the green rainforests.

Kanaja, where every artefact keeps history alive

With a variety of heritage objects and books, the Kanaja museum in Sirsi helps visitors reconnect with their roots, writes Rajendra Hegde

"Rim jhim gire saawan... sulag sulag jaaye mann..."

As the monsoon rain poured in rhythmic waves, Kishore Kumar's soulful voice drifted through the air. Played on a vintage 1934 gramophone at the Kanaja heritage museum in Sirsi, the song from the classic Hindi film *Manzil* transported listeners to another era. Visitors were captivated not just by the music, but by the machine, which echoed a bygone era, as well.

An array of intriguing objects is on display beside the gramophone in the museum. Among them are a stone vessel and a traditional wooden butter churner called the *kadagolu*.

At Kanaja, centuries-old household tools and agricultural implements, which have faded from everyday life, have been carefully collected and exhibited.

The museum was established by the Vidyanagar Rudrabhumi Committee in 2024. A thoughtfully curated library in this modest space complements the vibrant display of artefacts.

"The core mission of the committee is the collection, preservation and interpretation of indigenous knowledge systems. We never inaugurated the museum formally. Initially, we had a few things and eventually, more things kept on adding," says V P Hegde Vaishali, the curator.

Most of the artefacts at Kanaja have been sourced from the Havyaka households in Sirsi and other places in Uttara Kannada district.

The Kanaja Heritage Museum in Sirsi.

Stories in stone

The exhibits include dual-wick table lamps, brass and copper chimneys, rotating copper *kamandals* with lids, bamboo measuring cups, wooden pestles, clay pots, traditional games like the *channemane*, stone dosa pans, serving dishes, copper utensils, Buddhist bells, wooden containers and a variety of handcrafted spoons.

One cannot miss the *adda kattaris*, beautifully crafted betel nut cutters which were also used in royal courts in the past. Elegant bamboo trunks, which were used to store sarees and other valuables, and boot-shaped ashtrays from the colonial era add diversity to the exhibits.

Another fascinating display is of the locks made in Mavinkurve near Honnavar. The handcrafted metal locks have two keys and are tough. During the British period, these locks were quite popular across the country. But now, only a couple of these lockmakers are left in Mavinkurve.

Artistically crafted adda kattaris, or betel nut cutters, which were once used in royal courts.

Antiques on display at the museum. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

At the heart of it all remains the 1934 gramophone — playing songs of the past.

In total, around 1,000 artefacts are catalogued and displayed, each with a label, and available information.

A literary oasis

Kanaja is not just about objects but also about books reflecting the region's literary and cultural landscape.

Thousands of books by celebrated authors from the Uttara Kannada region have been arranged neatly in shelves. Over 30 regional newspapers and periodicals offer a glimpse of how life was in the yesteryears.

"Kanaja is making efforts to learn about the history of these items and their utility value," says Hegde.

K G Kadekodi, who was the tahsildar in Sirsi several years ago, used to collect antiques during his visits to various villages on duty. He had a huge personal collection. As his children, who are in their 80s now, could not maintain them, they shared their collection with Kanaja, Hegde adds.

He also invites individuals possessing rare, traditional artefacts to contribute to the museum, assuring they will be preserved with utmost care and respect.

"People can just walk in and read books or study the exhibits," says Ramesh Hegde, a regular visitor. "The combination of rare artefacts and literary resources makes this place truly special," he adds.

Kanaja is open daily from 4 pm to 6 pm, and entry is free.

(Translated from Kannada by Divyashri Mudakavi)

Merlet wins main event

KOLKATA RESULTS

Mumbai challenger Merlet, from the stables of S Waheed and ridden by Mukesh Kumar, won the Calcutta Fillies Trial Stakes, the feature event of the Kolkata races on Wednesday.

1. State Treasure Handicap - 1600M: Cool Daddy (Tejeshwar) 1; Global Fashion (Trevor Patel) 2; Just Dash (JH Arul) 3; Pyrgos (Hasib Alam) 4; WB: 3-1/4, 9, 2-1/4L; T: 1:41.44; TB: Rajender Reddy; Fav: Global Fashion.

2. Brush Aside Handicap - 1800M: Arabeska (Akshay Kumar) 1; Galway Girl (Vishal Bunde) 2; Norwegian Wood (Vaibhav) 3; Good Deeds (Yash Narredu) 4; WB: 1-1/4, 7-1/4, 1-1/4L; T: 1:53.77; TB: Deshmukh; Fav: Arabeska.

3 Shivansh Cup - 1600M: Sativur (Imran Chisty) 1; Raffaello (Ashhad Asbar) 2; Chopin (Akshay Kumar) 3; Stormy Ocean (Arman Khan) 4; WB: 2-1/4, 2-1/2, 1-3/4L; T: 1:40.09; TB: Rutherford Alford; Fav: Sativur.

4. Retort Handicap - 1400M: Only Dreams (P Tejeshwar) 1; Indian Jack (Imran Chisty) 2; Clap Your Hands (JH Arul) 3; Cristaldo (Arman Khan) 4; WB: 2-3/4, 2-1/4L, Lnk; T: 1:27.22; TB: Aashay Doctor; Fav: Indian Jack.

5. Calcutta Fillies Trial Stakes - 1400M: Merlet (Mukesh Kumar) 1; Morano (Antony Raj) 2; Eleanora (Yash Narredu) 3; Polka Dot (Trevor Patel) 4; NR: Shine; WB: Snk, 2-1/4, 2L; T: 1:25.43; TB: S Waheed; Fav: Polka Dot.

6. Dysnomia Handicap (Div I) - 1200M: Sabar (Trevor Patel) 1; Oishika (RS Bhati) 2; Victorious Omen (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Tres Bien (Vaibhav) 4; NR: Extravagant Star; WB: 3, 2-3/4, 2-1/2L; T: 1:13.70; TB: Aashay Doctor; Fav: Oishika.

7. Dysnomia Handicap (Div II) - 1400M: Trillionaire (Vishal Bunde) 1; Impressive Annie (RS Bhati) 2; Cyrenaica (Antony Raj) 3; N R I Fantasy (Mukesh Kumar) 4; WB: 2-3/4, 2L, Shd; T: 1:13.74; TB: Rajender Reddy; Fav: NRI Fantasy.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 204w; 51, 11p; Fc: Rs 561; Q: Rs 102; Shp: Rs 53; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 1,031 & 1,253; Ex: Rs 1,332 & 951. **II race:** Rs 15w; Rs 12, 10p; Fc: Rs 19; Q: Rs 17; Shp: Rs 19; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 85 & 55. **III race:** Rs 13w; 14, 10, 13p; Fc: Rs 30; Q: Rs 26; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 23; Tri: Rs 30 & 16. **IV race:** Rs 36w; 11, 10, 86p; Fc: Rs 115; Q: Rs 40; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 127; Tri: Rs 1,763 & 1,067; Ex: Rs 8,105 & 3,473. **V race:** Rs 40w; 13, 11, 16p; Fc: Rs 157; Q: Rs 61; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 324 & 51; Ex: Rs 764 & 374. **VI race:** Rs 20w; 11, 12, 12p; Fc: Rs 41; Q: Rs 19; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 94 & 40; Ex: Rs 279 & 91. **VII race:** Rs 37w; 14, 25, 20p; Fc: Rs 545; Q: Rs 370; Shp: Rs 100; Thp: Rs 52; Tri: Rs 2,057 & 839; Ex: Rs 13,013 & 3,718.

Jackpot: Rs 2,911 (128). **Runner-up:** Rs 235 (680). **I treble:** Rs 103 (55). **II treble:** Rs 992 (16).

Indian Brocade for main event

MYSURU SELECTIONS

Rajesh Narredu-trained Indian Brocade is fancied to win the Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar Memorial Multi-Million, the feature event on the opening day of the Mysuru races on Thursday. The first race starts at 2 pm.

1. Season Opener Plate - 1400M: Turkoman 1; Phoenix Surprise 2; Absolute Katrina 3.

2. Varada Plate (Div II) - 1100M: Anushtubha 1; The Whispering 2; King Scarface 3.

3. BK Krishnadevarajurs Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Agera 1; Ebotse 2; Lady Invictus 3.

4. HH Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Czar 1; Star Glory 2; Idgate 3.

5. Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar Memorial Multi-Million - 1400M: Indian Brocade 1; Scent Of Rain 2; Echoes Of Time 3.

6. Star Of Mysore Trophy - 1400M: Pretty Move 1; Drisana 2; Mystic Divine 3.

7. Varada Plate (Div I) - 1100M: Falcon Fury 1; Ocean 2; Indian Glory 3.

Day's best: Pretty Move. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

I treble: 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

HOCKEY ASIA CUP

Korea force Indians to go Dutch

Hosts fumble on finishing front to settle for a 2-2 draw

HITA PRAKASH
RAJGIR, DHNS

A breezy evening here in Rajgir soon turned into a night of lightning, thunder and heavy rain delaying the start of India's first Super 4s encounter against Korea at the Asia Cup on Wednesday.

On the new turf at the Bihar Sports University Hockey Stadium, it was the ball patrol kids, equipped with squeegees, who were put to work to clear waterlogged patches so the players could take to the field in what turned out to be a slug fest.

In the end, the top-ranked India, trailing for the larger part of the game, were forced to spend every ounce in their reserves to hold Korea to a 2-2 draw.

Realising the weather had added an extra challenge, coach Craig Fulton was seen giving specific instructions to his men after making a good inspection of the damp outfield. Every tiny detail, after all, was going to make a huge difference.

When the game kicked off, the slippery on-field conditions posed the toughest challenge for each of the 20 running players. The ball slid and bounced unevenly, making everything from holding stance to dribbling, trapping or even passing the ball tricky.

However, it was India who got a grip of the conditions first. A sprinting Hardik Singh, after receiving the ball from Sukhjeet Singh, held, carried and pushed it into the goal post to put India ahead in the eighth minute. However, Korea wasted little time to play catch-up.

An intentional push from India saw the World No. 15 Korean being awarded a penalty stroke which Jihun Yang confidently slammed it to equalise in the 12th minute. Soon, the visitors made no mistake in converting their first penalty corner in the 14th minute to take a 2-1 lead. This time it was Kim Hyeonhong who put his name on the scoresheet.

India's Hardik Singh (right) celebrates with team-mates after scoring against Korea during their Asia Cup Super4s match on Wednesday. PTI

Trailing 1-2 at the end of 30 minutes, the high-intensity, physical and noisy contest went a notch higher in the second half. With the Koreans upping their defence and India fumbling inside the 'D' made for a frustrating third quarter for the hosts.

If Manpreet Singh's ball was missed by Sukhjeet, Abhishek's hit was off target before Manpreet failed to deflect Abhishek's pass. Harmanpreet's flick was blocked and saved.

Though the momentum favoured India, more field goal chances squandered at the start of the fourth quarter left them hanging. The story of a final touch deserting their high press continued. Until the 'common bhaiyya, ek goal mariyee..,' screams by young hockey volunteers from the stands were answered by the Indian men when a Sukhjeet's pass was finally tapped in by Mandeep in the 52nd minute to make it 2-2. And with that the damp evening would only end with a draw and much thinking to do before India take on a dangerous-looking Malaysia on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Malaysia, the tournament's second highest-ranked team, endured some nervous moments to eventually scrape through to 2-0 win against a charged-up China.

Results: India: 2 (Hardik Singh 8th, Mandeep Singh 52nd) drew with Korea: 2 (Jihun Yang 12th, Kim Hyeonhong 14th); Malaysia: 2 (Syed Cholan 45th, Akhimullah Anuar 47th) bt China: 0; Japan: 2 (Ryosuke Shinohara 5th, 11th) bt Chinese Taipei: 0.

Srishti Kiran

Seeded players saunter into quarters

BENGALURU, DHNS: Seeded players faced little trouble in the second round of the KSLTA ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors event, held at at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium and Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Wednesday.

In the boys' section, second seed Aditya Mor, third seed Dev Vipul Patel, fourth seed Vishal Vasudev M and fifth seed Ojas Mehlawat marched into the quarters in convincing fashion along with France's Thomas Coppi and Pratyush Loganathan.

In the girls' battles, top seed Snigdha Kanta led the way, joined by wildcard Srishti Kiran, eighth seed Deepshika Vinayagamurthy, fourth seed Aleena Farid, fifth seed Aahan Aahan, Disha Kumar and Sree Syleswari Velmanikandan.

Results (prefix denotes seeding, Indians unless mentioned): Round of 16: Boys' singles: 5-Ojas Mehlawat bt Ahan Shetty 6-4, 7-6 (3); 4-Vishal Vasudev M bt Sumer Mehta 6-0, 6-4; 3-Dev Vipul Patel bt Srikar Doni 7-6 (1), 6-4; 2-Aditya Mor bt Niyanth Badrinarayanan (USA) 4-6, 7-5, 7-5; Pratyush Loganathan bt Rohith Hari Balaji Gobina Gobinath 6-3, 6-4; 6-Adhiraj Tkakur bt Diganth M 6-3, 6-3; Om Verma bt Nishith Rajesh (USA) 7-5, 6-4; Thomas Coppi (FRA) bt 1-Om Patel 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Girls' singles: 8-Deepshika Vinayagamurthy bt Sai Ananya Varanasi 3-6, 6-4, 6-0; Sree Syleswari Velmanikandan bt 6-Saiyette Varadkar 6-1, 6-1; Srishti Kiran bt 3-Harsha Karthika Oruganti 7-6 (4), 6-1; 1-Snigdha Kanta bt Nandini Kansal 6-2, 6-2; Disha Kumar bt 7-Angel Patel 7-5, 6-3; 4-Aleena Farid bt Aaradhya Meena 6-3, 7-5; 5-Aahan Aahan bt Meghana G D 6-1, 6-2.

Indian boxers brace for stern test

LIVERPOOL, PTI

Indian boxers will face a stern test against a top-notch field as they aspire to match or better their medal haul from the previous edition when the World Boxing Championships begin here on Thursday.

For the first time, the Championships will be staged under the aegis of the new governing body -- World Boxing and will feature both men's and women's events together.

India enjoyed a successful run in 2023, with the women's team bagging four gold medals in New Delhi and the men clinching three bronze in Tashkent.

But results dipped thereafter, with underwhelming performances at the Asian Games later that year and a disappointing campaign at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Lovlina Borgohain (left) and Nikhat Zareen will be India's big hopes of medals at the World Boxing Championships in Liverpool. PTI

Although Indian pugilists returned with healthy hauls from the World Boxing Cups earlier this year, the scale of the Championships, featuring over 550 boxers from more than 65 nations, including as many as 17 Paris Olympic medallists, will present a far stiffer challenge.

Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen and Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain will mark their international return after over a year's hiatus.

Both enter the tournament with limited preparation, having competed in only one domestic event since the Paris Games. However, the duo could be drawn to face tough boxers in the opening rounds as they are likely to be unseeded after missing all three World Boxing Cups this year. Nikhat begins a fresh campaign in the 51kg category, having previously won her world titles at 52kg (2022) and 50kg (2023).

Weight management remains a concern, with the Telangana boxer struggling on that front during the Paris Olympics, where she made a second round exit after being out-punched by China's Wu Yu.

Squad (Women): Meenakshi Hooda (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (51kg), Sakshi (54kg), Jaismine Lamboria (57kg), Sanju Khatri (60kg), Neeraj Phogat (60kg), Sanamacha Chanu (70kg), Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), Pooja Rani (80kg), Nupur Sheoran (80+kg)

Men: Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Pawan Bartwal (55kg), Sachin Siwach (60kg), Abhinash Jamwal (65kg), Hitesh Gulia (70kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg), Lakshya Chahar (80kg), Jugnoo Ahlawat (85kg), Harsh Chaudhary (90kg), Narender Berwal (90+kg).

European heavyweights kick off World Cup quest

GENEVA, AP: European football now focuses on qualifying for the 2026 World Cup with recent champions France, Germany and Spain among the nations starting a six-game, 11-week sprint to advance to the tournament being played across North America.

The European qualifying programme returns on Thursday with six days of games involving 54 teams — 24 of them kicking a first ball on their intended road to play on football's biggest stage in the United States, Canada and Mexico starting June 11.

Italy began its campaign — shakily — in June and resumes its quest to avoid a third straight failure to qualify already trailing nine points behind group leader Norway.

England opened in March and looks to add to three straight wins with no goals conceded for coach Thomas Tuchel.

Among those starting their qualifying programme are top-tier teams who played a thrilling set of Nations League games in March and June. Spain, the 2010 World Cup winner, begins at Bulgaria on Thursday when 2014 champion Germany starts at Slovakia.

France, the 2018 title winner, starts Friday away against Ukraine in Les Bleus' first game in the competition since losing an epic final against Argentina in December 2022.

IOC resumes funding to IOA

NEW DELHI, PTI: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has decided to resume its funding to India under the Olympic Solidarity Programme a year after halting it, acknowledging the IOA's "corrective measures" to resolve internal disputes and governance issues.

The Executive Board of the IOC had last year stopped the yearly grant of Rs 15 crore meant for athlete development programmes in the wake of the prolonged infighting in IOA.

KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS/ DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S PARK AND MINI ZOO, KALABURGI.
Email Id Address: acfkalaburgit@gmail.com

No.: A.C.F & DD CPCMZK/ KPPP/Po/Tender/C.R-05 /2025-26 Date:02/09/2025

LONG TERM TENDER NOTICE

(Through KPPP Second Edition Portal) is invited.
Cost of Tender Rs.150.00 Lakhs

This is to inform the public that tenders are invited for contractors registered with the Karnataka State Public Works Department for the construction of Interpretation Centre work at New Zoological park Madbool, Kalagi Taluka, Kalaburagi, during the year 2024-25 on the portal (website link http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) in the second version of the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from 02/09/2025 to 16/09/2025 till 04:00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on 17/09/2025 after 04:00 PM. Financial bids of successful tenders in the technical bid will be opened on 18/09/2025 after 04:00 PM.

For more details: You can call or visit the office during office hours on weekday. Phone: +91 9481993239.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests and
Deputy Director Children's Park and Mini Zoo,
Deputy Conservator of Forests Office, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/460/KSMC&A/2025-26

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586402, Email: info@ksicsilk.com

No: KSIC/PR/MACHIERIES/01/2025-26 Dated: 18.08.2025

TENDER NOTICE
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from Manufacturers / Dealers for **Supply, Installation and Commissioning of below detailed Machineries**:

Sl. No.	Machinery Name	EMD (In Rs.)	Place of Supply, Installation and Commissioning	Pre Bid Date and Time at KSIC, Head Office, Bengaluru	Last Date and Time for uploading the Tender along with EMD	Technical Bids Opening Date and Time
1	3 Nos of Sectional Warping Machine with Creel	2,46,000	KSIC, Silk Weaving Mysuru and KSIC Silk Weaving Unit, Channapatna.	15.09.2025 @11.00 AM	04.10.2025 by 03.00 PM	06.10.2025 @03.30 PM
2	20 Nos of Heavy Duty Silk Looms with Electronic Jacquards-256 Hooks	2,62,000	KSIC Silk Weaving Unit, Channapatna.	16.09.2025 @11.00 AM	06.10.2025 by 03.00 PM	08.10.2025 @03.30 PM
3	1 No. of Automatic Weaving Machine	40,000	KSIC Silk Weaving Unit, Channapatna.	-	03.10.2025 by 03.00 PM	04.10.2025 @03.30 PM

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal - helpdesk-080-46010000 and 080-68948777.

DIPR/CP/JA/2510/2025-26

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER(Proc)

Djokovic cranks up the volume against Fritz

Serbian to face Alcaraz in semis; Sabalenka gets a walkover to last-4

NEW YORK, AFP

Novak Djokovic advanced to a blockbuster US Open showdown with Carlos Alcaraz on Tuesday. At the same time, reigning women's champion Aryna Sabalenka vaulted into the semifinals without having to lift her racquet.

After Alcaraz took just one hour and 56 minutes to beat Czech 20th seed Jiri Lehecka 6-4, 6-2, 6-4, Djokovic snuffed out Taylor Fritz's hopes of becoming the first American man to win a Grand Slam singles title since 2003. The Serbian marched on with a 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 quarterfinal victory on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.

The win sent the 38-year-old Serbian — chasing a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam victory — into a mouth-watering semifinal against Spanish second seed Alcaraz on Friday.

Djokovic clinched victory when fourth seed Fritz double-faulted on match point in the 10th game of the final set and could not hide his relief at finally emerging victorious. Fritz was left ruing his failure to make the most of the opportunities that came his way, converting only two of 13 points during an absorbing three-hour 24-minute battle. Djokovic will meet Alcaraz in the last four with the 22-year-old Spaniard in blistering form. Alcaraz has not dropped a set during a relentless march into the semifinals and was once again in complete control against Lehecka.

Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Taylor Fritz in the quarterfinals on Wednesday. AFP

In the women's draw on Tuesday, World No 1 and defending champion Sabalenka moved into the semifinals after Czech quarter-final opponent Marketa Vondrousova pulled out with a knee injury.

Sabalenka, bidding to become the first woman to successfully defend the US Open since Serena Williams completed a hat-trick of titles in 2014, extended sympathy to Vondrousova, the 2023 Wimbledon champion.

The walkover sets up a repeat of last year's US Open final in the last four, with Sabalenka facing American fourth seed Jessica Pegula on Thursday. Pegula reached the semifinals earlier on Tuesday after a 6-3, 6-3 defeat of unseeded Czech Barbora Krejcikova.

Quarterfinals results (Prefix denotes seedings): Men: 2-Carlos Alcaraz (Esp) bt 20-Jiri Lehecka 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; 7-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt 4-Taylor Fritz (USA) 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Women: 1-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Marketa Vondrousova (Cze) - walkover; 4-Jessica Pegula (USA) bt Barbora Krejcikova (Cze) 6-3, 6-3.

Bhambri makes first-ever Grand Slam quarters

NEW YORK, PTI

Yuki Bhambri reached the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam for the first time in his career, progressing to the last eight of the US Open men's doubles competition with partner Michael Venus here.

The 14th-seeded Indo-New Zealand combination knocked out the fourth-seeded German pair of Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz 6-4, 6-4 in one hour and 23 minutes. They will next take on Croatia's Nikola Mektic and American veteran Rajeev Ram, who are the 11th seeds in the draw.

In his injury-marred singles career, the 33-year-old Indian could never go beyond the first round but in doubles, he has been doing better. He reached the third round of French Open and Wimbledon this year.

Meanwhile, the promising Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi gave a scare to second seed Hannah Klugman of Britan before going down in the girls singles second round 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-3. She battled for two hours and two minutes.

Later, Maaya also bowed out of the doubles event along with partner Laima Cinalli, going down 2-6, 2-6 to fourth seeds Luna Vladson and Jeline Vandromme.

Yuki Bhambri (in front) attempts a return while his partner Michael Venus watches on during their win in the men's doubles round of 16 in New York on Wednesday. X

Venus exits in 'style'

Venus Williams exited the US Open in good fashion on Tuesday, putting up a solid effort in her women's doubles quarterfinal defeat after taking the headlines back once again for her style and substance on the court, reports Reuters from New York.

The 45-year-old American made an age-defying return to tennis this year, becoming the oldest WTA singles match winner since 2004 in July, and her matches in the women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles made her appointment viewing across Flushing Meadows.

Kohli breaks silence on stampede

Breaking his long silence, star batter Virat Kohli has opened up about the June 4 stampede here during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL victory celebrations, saying, "nothing in life really prepares you for the heartbreak" of 11 deaths on what should have been the happiest day for his side, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

What should have been a momentous occasion for RCB players and their legion of fans, who had waited 17 long years for the trophy, turned into a nightmare as the mad scramble to get into the stadium claimed 11 lives while leaving scores injured.

"Nothing in life really prepares you for a heartbreak like June 4th. What should've been the happiest moment in our franchise's history...turned into something tragic," Kohli was quoted as saying by RCB on its 'X' handle.

Kohli described the tragic events as an "unimaginable heartbreak" that overshadowed what should have been the franchise's happiest day.

"I've been thinking of and praying for the families of those we lost...and for our fans who were injured. Your loss is part of our story now. Together, we will move forward with care, respect and responsibility," he offered.

INTERVIEW CHETESHWAR PUJARA

"People who criticised my style REALISED MY VALUE"

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Like the person he is, Cheteshwar Pujara's batting was also understated -- characterised more by dour defence than dazzling strokes and defined more by substance than style. His retirement last week, after losing his spot in the Test squad in June 2023, marked the end of a distinguished career in Indian cricket. Perhaps the last of the Test specialists, Pujara's career was marked by soldier-like resolve and immense faith in old-school batsmanship. One of just 12 Indian cricketers to play 100 Tests (103), Pujara opens up about a range of topics in a candid chat with *DH*. Excerpts...

How do you look back at this long journey you had? A small-town boy going on to become one of India's batting great...

Well, it's been a fantastic journey playing for the country. But at that time, when I started my career, not many players thought about representing the country. Because, when you belong to a small town, when you play for a small team like Saurashtra... Saurashtra has progressed immensely over the years, but when I started playing cricket, it was a weaker team. And to represent this team and also still to play for the country, which was almost next to impossible at that time.

What has been the most satisfying thing about your career?

I think one of the most memorable victories I should definitely tell is 2018-19 in Australia; first series win in Australia. And also 2017 series at home against Australia. That was also one of the toughest series I have been part of. Also not to forget, for me I think, making debut in 2010 for the Indian team (in Bengaluru).

That was one of the most memorable years against Australia. It was a memorable moment for me because as a child, you grew up watching someone like Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman And all of them were part of that game. Mahi bhai (MS Dhoni) was captain. So the great players, Zaheer Khan, Harbhajan Singh, Gautam Gambhir... So, I think as a young cricketer, that's the best opportunity one can get. And that's why it is one of the most memorable moments and series for me.

Like Laxman, Dravid and Tendulkar, Australia brought out the best in you...

See, the reason I put out my best against the Aussies was that they are one of the best teams in the world. They are very aggressive on the field and if you are mentally and physically strong ... And strength is not just about having too many muscles; it's also about being out there, fighting it out for your team no matter what the conditions or situation is in front of you. You just try and fight it out for your country.

> I paid a lot of attention in my net sessions, my concentration was at my best when I was batting in the nets.

So those are the things I always looked up to. And for me, Aussies never gave you any easy victories on the field. Even if we had to chase 80-90 runs, they still tried their best to bowl the opposition out. So that's why they have been very competitive; very disciplined and a tough unit to beat. You always need to earn your victory against Aussies and that's why it brought the best out of me.

What was the secret behind your ability to play long innings?

I paid a lot of attention in my net sessions, my concentration was at my best when I was batting in the nets. That allowed me to focus for long periods of time in the game as well. But at the same time, I realised as a young kid, when I used to get out for 120-130, we (Saurashtra) used to get bowled out for 200, sometimes 180-190. And I realised that my centuries are not good enough. I need to score big 100s. That's how I started scoring double 100s and triple 100s. And that's how this habit started of scoring big runs that stayed on even in the senior cricket like in the Ranji Trophy.

Despite unwarranted criticism, Cheteshwar Pujara stuck to his style of batting and stood vindicated. AP/PTI

There were some tough times in your career and you were branded as too slow. But (then India coach) Anil Kumble shut that debate by saying strike rates are only for bowlers in cricket. How do you look back at that phase?

Firstly, Anil bhai has been very instrumental in my cricketing journey because he is one of the best coaches I have worked with. He gave me some important tips, not just about this particular incident when he mentioned that the strike rate is for bowlers, but also some important tips of how to tackle Nathan Lyon, how to bat against spin, some minor technical changes in my stance.

To speak about that strike rate thing, I actually stuck to my strength. I didn't try changing my game too much. One has to stick to their strength and for me, I knew in my heart that I was doing the right thing for the team. Because ultimately as a batter, your job is to ensure you win a game for the Indian team. If you are not in a position to win a game, you need to ensure that the team doesn't lose a game. But you shouldn't be on the losing side. So, I was just trying my best to achieve that and in that process, sometimes I might have ignored the outside noise or maybe even noise within the team. But eventually, people or the players who were criticising me realised that cricket can be played like this also. After the 2018-19 series and the 2020-21 series in Australia, they realised that I still bring a lot of value to the team and they respected me for that.

Talking about the approach to batting, how do you look at this so-called Bazball style? Do you enjoy that?

Well, the Bazball in general is very exciting, no doubt about that. But at the same time, if you look at the last couple of WTC cycles, they (England) made a lot of mistakes. Now I can say that they have found the right balance. Because, in the last couple of WTC cycles, we have seen that they were a little reckless. They were irresponsible to play all the shots the way they played and that didn't give them the result. But now, if you look at the current England team, they have learned from their mistakes.

Srinivasan's role in CSK as chairman is advisory: CEO

CHENNAI, PTI: Former BCCI President N Srinivasan's return to sports administration in the role of Chennai Super Kings chairman will primarily be advisory in nature but is a big boon for the storied franchise, the team's CEO Kasi Viswanthan said on Wednesday.

The 80-year-old Srinivasan was appointed the CSK chairman in the franchise's board meeting a couple of weeks ago.

"See, it's a great boon for CSK and he's been the best administrator for us and I'm very happy that he's come back into CSK. He'll be in an advisory role only because he doesn't travel much, but we'll be in contact with him.

"Both of us are in Chennai only. So he's in day-to-day contact with us," said Viswanathan, who added that Srinivasan would also oversee the management of the CSK' properties in SA20 and Major League Cricket.

◆ ON TV ◆

HOCKEY

Asia Cup: Korea vs China **(5 pm)**; India vs Malaysia **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1**.

CRICKET

2nd ODI: England vs South Africa **(5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5.**

FOOTBALL

FIFA WC qualifiers: Kazakhstan vs Wales **(7:30 pm)**; Georgia vs Turkiye **(9:30 pm)**; Bulgaria vs Spain, Netherlands vs Poland, Slovakia vs Germany **(all 12:15 am on Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

TENNIS

US Open: Men's doubles & Ladies doubles semifinals **(9:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1** & **JioHotstar.**

KABADDI

PKL: Jaipur Pink Panthers vs Telugu Titans **(8 pm)**; Puneri Paltan vs Dabang Delhi KC **(9 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1** & **JioHotstar.**

CWG champ racing against time to get a critical surgery done

Triple jumper Eldhose Paul struggles to fund his operation in Doha for a career-threatening injury

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Eldhose Paul, who became the first Indian triple jumper to bag a gold in the quadrennial event, is struggling to find a sponsor for a career-threatening knee surgery in Qatar, with months left to defend his title next year in Glasgow.

The 28-year-old Keralite hasn't competed since June last year and subsequently missed out on the berth for the upcoming World Athletics Championships after being diagnosed with bipartite patella, where the patella's ossification centres fail to fuse. The athlete has already undergone two failed surgeries at a hospital in Bengaluru, making him apprehensive about going for a third one in India.

"The injury happened last year before the Olympics," Paul told *DH*. "Actually, it's a congenital issue, but last year the symptoms popped up. It's in the knee. I went to two-three doctors to consult, and after that I went for a surgery at a Bengaluru hospital in January.

Eldhose Paul, who won the triple jump gold at the 2022 CWG, urgently needs to operated upon a knee injury. AFP FILE PHOTO

"I underwent another surgery there in March. Slowly, I learnt that both surgeries were unsuccessful. They tried to fuse the bone, but it didn't work. They have put a screw to hold them together, that's why I can't train or work out at the moment."

He is now hoping to get treated at a Doha hospital which specialises in orthopeadic and sports medicine. The institution is trusted by athletes across the globe, including Brazilian footballer Neymar, who successfully underwent a right ankle surgery.

Indian long jumper M Sreeshankar, who recently qualified for the World Championships following a good show in the domestic season, went under the knife for a ruptured patellar tendon at the same institution in early 2024. His expenses at the time were covered under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme.

Exclusion from TOPS

Paul, however, was excluded from the TOPS list last November. The procedure to drop an athlete from the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) is overseen by the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), which regularly reviews the performance of athletes. An athlete can be excluded based on the committee's recommendations if their performance does not meet the necessary standards for medal contention.

His expenses, however, for both surgeries were reimbursed through insurance policies under the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) scheme. The same scheme won't bear any expenses of treatment and surgeries outside India.

To make the situation worse, his sponsors have turned their backs on him as well.

"The biggest problem at the moment is sponsors. All my sponsors have left since learning of my injury.

"They just terminated the contract without any proper explanation, including those who were there before the CWG," said Paul, who leapt 17.03m to claim the gold in Birmingham in 2022.

Revenge on India's mind

HISOR (TAJIKISTAN), PTI: Revenge for their shock loss last year will be on their minds when they face a tricky Afghanistan in their last group match of the CAFA Nations Cup here on Thursday.

India, then under Igor Stimac, had suffered an embarrassing 1-2 defeat against Afghanistan in Guwahati in a FIFA World Cup qualifying round match in March 2024, and the current team under Khalid Jamil would be eager to make amends for that defeat.

The Blue Tigers have so far won one match (2-1 against Tajikistan) and lost one (0-3 against Iran). They are tied on three points with Tajikistan, but ahead by virtue of a better head-to-head record.

The top teams from each group will progress to the final, while the two second-placed teams will make it to the third-place match, both to take place on September 8.

Nabi stars as Afghans beat Pak

SHARJAH, AFP: Afghanistan's veteran spinner Mohammad Nabi reached 100 wickets in Twenty20 internationals as he helped his team beat Pakistan by 18 runs in a tri-series match in Sharjah on Tuesday.

Nabi grabbed 2-20 to help restrict Pakistan to 151-9 as they chased 169. Ibrahim Zadran's 45-ball 65 and Sediqullah Atal's brisk 64 helped Afghanistan to 169-5 in their 20 overs despite Pakistan paceman Faheem Ashraf's career best 4-27.

In reply, Pakistan briefly looked on course to chase down the target with Fakhar Zaman scoring an 18-ball 25 in his 100th T20I but Nabi dismissed him and Mohammad Haris, for one run, to end all hopes. Tail-ender Haris Rauf top-scored with 34 not out, hitting four sixes off 16 balls.

Brief score: Afghanistan: 169/5 in 20 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 65, Sediqullah Atal 64; Faheem Ashraf 4-27) bt Pakistan: 151/9 in 20 overs (Haris Rauf 34 n.o., Fakhar Zaman 25; Mohammed Nabi 2-20, Noor Ahmad 2-20).

CRICKET DULEEP TROPHY

A lot riding for Test hopefuls Padikkal, Iyer

Duleep Trophy semifinal clashes kick off today at BCCI's CoE

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

A vast majority of the stars of Indian cricket may be missing in action for the Duleep Trophy semifinals for a variety of reasons, but for the ones assembled here on the outskirts of the city, it offers an opportunity to deliver a statement performance and stay on the radar of the national selectors ahead of an important season.

With the Asia Cup set to kick off in the United Arab Emirates on September 9, some of those involved in the quarterfinals will be not be playing the semifinals, starting at BCCI's Centre of Excellence from Thursday. A few of them, like Vyshak Vijaykumar and R Sai Kishore, are nursing injuries, but the two semis — South Zone vs North Zone and West Zone vs Central Zone — will have a lot riding on them for individuals like Devdutt Padikkal, Shreyas Iyer, Rajat Patidar **(inset pic)** and N Jagadeesan, among others.

When Padikkal made his Test debut against England in March 2024, it seemed like the talented youngster had finally graduated to the big league. The 25-year-old Bengalurean, following some brilliant performances on the domestic circuit and the IPL, was rewarded with a Test cap. He was named in the squad for the series in Australia and even played the series opener in Perth last November. Since then, though, the southpaw seems to have fallen down the pecking order.

South Zone's Devdutt Padikkal (left) and West Zone's Shreyas Iyer will be eying big knocks in their respective Duleep Trophy semifinals that kick off today. AFP

That's how fast things change in Indian cricket that's overflowing with talent, and now, Padikkal will have to earn his place back. Sai Sudharsan, another young tall southpaw and a top-order batter like Padikkal, has stolen the march following two blistering IPLs which saw him make his Test debut in the series against England this summer.

India are scheduled to play four Test matches this year at home — two against the West Indies and two against World Test Championship winners South Africa — and the Duleep Trophy matches are a chance for South Zone's Padikkal to stamp his case. A reticent character, Padikkal is a fighter at the core and he'll be hoping for a big knock.

The semifinals is another chance for West Zone's Shreyas to show the selectors why he's too good to be left out of the national Test team. After falling foul of the authorities last year, the right-hander has made his bat talk big since then, first by leading Kolkata Knight Riders to IPL triumph last year and then steering Punjab Kings to the final this season. He's been in great touch for Mumbai too and the 30-year-old will be determined to extend that run and earn a recall to the national set-up.

The match will also be of some significance for Central Zone's Patidar. The unassuming Madhya Pradesh batter also made his debut in the series against England in 2024 following consistent shows on the domestic circuit but sadly, things didn't go as planned for the 32-year-old. He fluffed his lines badly and given the intense competition for places, he was replaced by a youngster and the road back looks the hardest for him considering even Karun Nair has entered the fray.

While the competition may be zonal, there's a lot riding in terms of individual stakes. Of course, all of them will be hoping the rain stays away.

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